

Your up-to-date football weekly

MATCH

Saturday May 28
1988 45p

MARK

HATELEY

EXCLUSIVE

*How Monaco
lost its magic
– Pages 34
and 35.*

**1987/88
LEAGUE
REVIEW**

**3-page
special**

ENGLAND'S
man-of-the-match
Peter Beardsley
leaves Murdo MacLeod
trailing during an
individual performance
against Scotland on Saturday
that was just perfect on the
eve of the European
Championship Finals. More
colour action from Wembley
on Pages 12 and 13.

**PERFECT
PETER!**

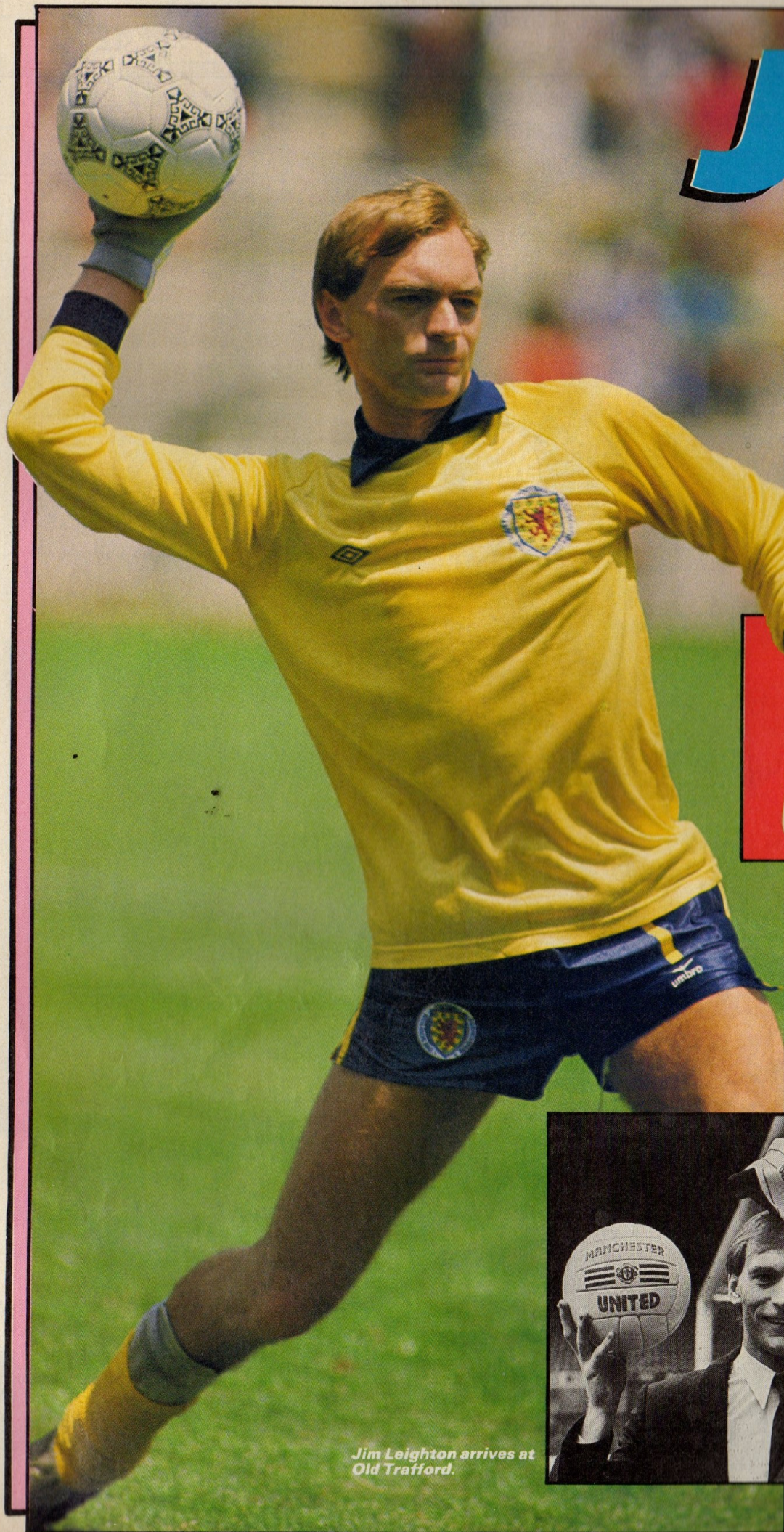
**ANOTHER
GREAT
COLOUR
FIRST!**

**SHERPA
SHOOT-OUT**

*Burnley v Wolves
preview*

JIM LEIGHTON

*'Why it had
to be United'*



Jim Leighton arrives at Old Trafford.



JIM FIXES IT!

THE sight of Terry Gibson dancing round Wembley with an FA Cup winners' medal has reinforced cast-off 'keeper Chris Turner's view that there is life after Manchester United.

The former Sunderland hero has been living in fear of the axe almost since the day manager Alex Ferguson arrived at Old Trafford, with the United boss subsequently linked with a whole host of top goalkeeping stars.

Alex finally landed his man when he completed the £750,000 deal that took Jim Leighton to Manchester and Chris confesses he's relieved his agony is finally over.

"Jim's arrival makes it 100 per cent certain I'll be leaving instead of just 90 per cent which was the case before United signed anybody," says Chris.

"I wanted to leave last summer but the club couldn't find a

Left: Jim Leighton - jumped at the chance to sign for United.

JIM LEIGHTON didn't even have to speak to his old boss Alex Ferguson to know Old Trafford was the place for him.

Almost as soon as the Aberdeen and Scotland number one knew the 'Dons' had accepted United's offer, Jim was on his way to Manchester.

"I'd set my heart on joining United and even discussed a move there with my wife, so as soon as Ian Porterfield told me the clubs had agreed a fee I knew where I was going," he says.

"I didn't even need the chance to

NOW TURNER CAN QUIT

replacement so I had to stay.

"Then I went on tour with the reserves to Devon along with Terry Gibson and we were both so depressed, although I think he was even lower than me.

"So it was great to see him at Wembley with Wimbledon and I know there's a lot of football left in me so, who knows, perhaps I could be at Wembley in a year's time!"

It was Chris's performances on the way to Wembley - in Sunderland's 1985 Milk Cup run

- that secured a £300,000 move to United but he admits he would have been prepared to drop into the Third Division with the Roker Park outfit to resurrect his career.

"Sunderland came in for me last season and I would have loved to have gone back there but they couldn't come up with the cash so I stayed at United," says the 29-year-old 'keeper.

"But, in retrospect, I think that and the fact I couldn't get away last summer might have improved my chances of getting another club.

"At the end of last season I was playing in the reserves but, when Gary Walsh got injured, I got back into the team and ended up having a long run in a side that finished second in the First Division.

"It was a bit different to being third in line behind Gary Bailey and Gary Walsh.

"United have had to spend £750,000 to buy one of the top three 'keepers in the country to replace me. I now just want the chance to prove my ability in the First Division."

HOWARD WHEATCROFT discovers why the arrival of big-money capture Jim Leighton at Old Trafford was the best news resident 'keeper Chris Turner had heard all year ... EXCLUSIVE!

IT HAD TO BE UNITED

chat with Alex. The fact that United wanted me was enough to make up my mind."

Speculation has been rife for almost a year that Jim would be on his way from Pittodrie, thus severing an 11-year connection with the Premier Division outfit.

He continues: "Because my contract was up this summer, I've been linked with clubs all over the place, particularly France and Germany.

"But I didn't actually tell Aberdeen I was leaving until a month ago and even then asked them to keep it quiet until the end of the season.

"I don't think the rumours bothered me personally, although my wife and kids found it very unsettling and the older children found themselves getting grilled at school as to where I was going.

"I'd definitely made up my mind to move, however, and feel I've done all I can in Scottish football. I've got a complete set of domestic medals and also enjoyed European success.

"I need a change - a breath of fresh

air if you like - and believe the move can only take my career a stage further."

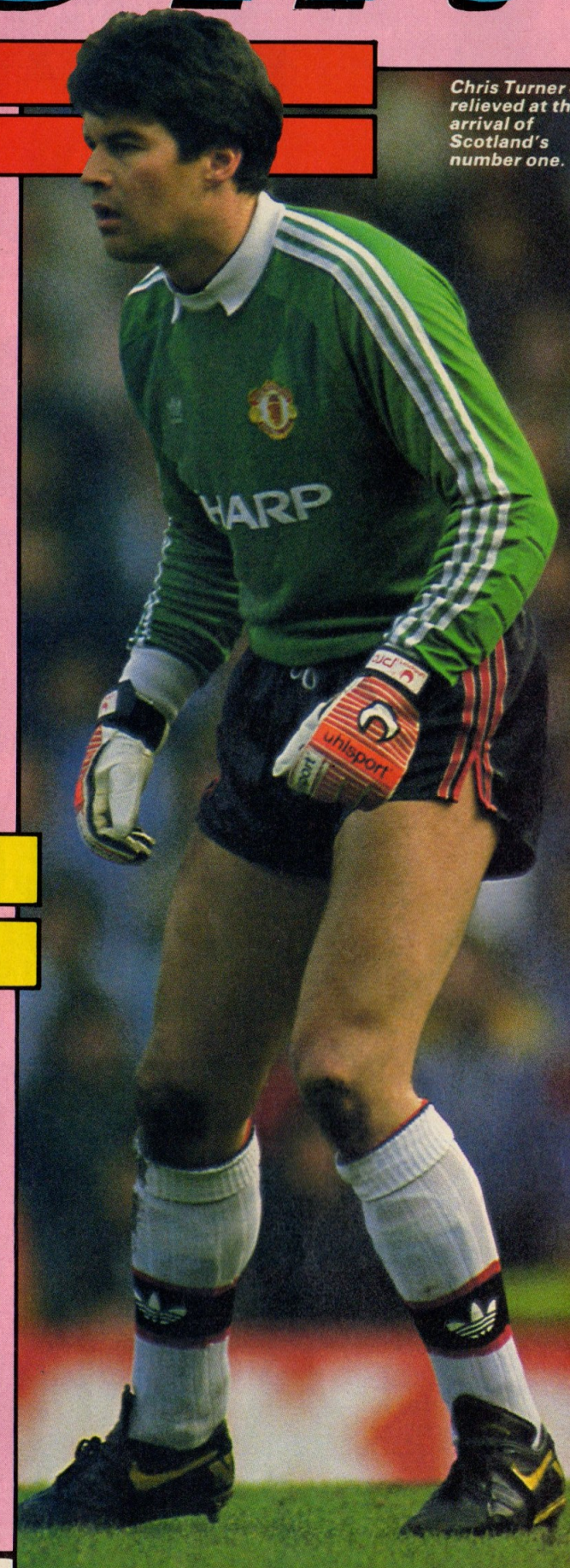
At one point United boss Alex Ferguson seemed to have lost patience after a long wait for Jim and the First Division runners-up were linked with Rangers and England star Chris Woods.

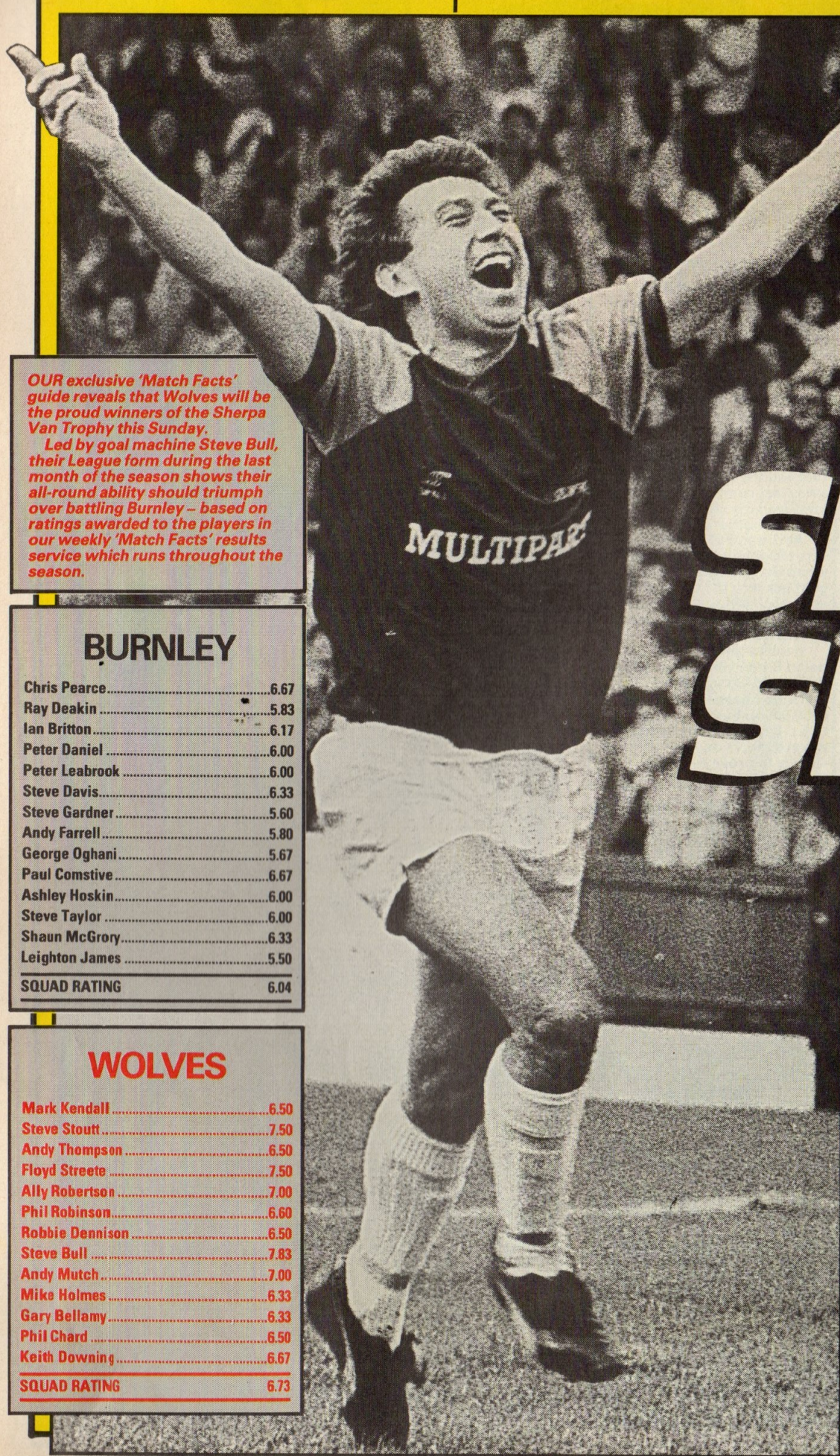
But that proved to be a mere feint and Ferguson finally captured another major figure in his Old Trafford overhaul, at the same time strengthening healthy connections between the two clubs that in previous years has seen Martin Buchan and Gordon Strachan take the road South to fame and fortune - as well as the manager himself.

Even before he arrived at the ground, Jim was only too conscious of the one burning desire of everybody at United, as he explains: "I've spoken to both Gordon and Brian McClair and know from them just how desperate United are to win the League.

"I'm also very aware of just how ambitious Alex Ferguson is, having worked with him for so long."

Chris Turner - relieved at the arrival of Scotland's number one.





LEFT: Neil Grewcock celebrates scoring the goal against Orient which kept Burnley in the Fourth Division last season. Now Wembley is the reward.

PETER DANIEL has clawed his way back from the depths of despair to the verge of Wembley glory in a footballing tale with more twists than Spaghetti Junction!

This time last year, he was in tears when, as caretaker boss of Lincoln City, he plunged into the non-League in what he readily admits was the worst experience of his life.

Defeat at Swansea had sent the 'Imps' crashing out of the League while, ironically, Burnley had avoided the trapdoor by beating Orient at an emotion-charged Turf Moor.

OUR exclusive 'Match Facts' guide reveals that Wolves will be the proud winners of the Sherpa Van Trophy this Sunday.

Led by goal machine Steve Bull, their League form during the last month of the season shows their all-round ability should triumph over battling Burnley – based on ratings awarded to the players in our weekly 'Match Facts' results service which runs throughout the season.

BURNLEY

Chris Pearce	6.67
Ray Deakin	5.83
Ian Britton	6.17
Peter Daniel	6.00
Peter Leabrook	6.00
Steve Davis	6.33
Steve Gardner	5.60
Andy Farrell	5.80
George Oghani	5.67
Paul Comstive	6.67
Ashley Hoskin	6.00
Steve Taylor	6.00
Shaun McGrory	6.33
Leighton James	5.50
SQUAD RATING	6.04

WOLVES

Mark Kendall	6.50
Steve Stoutt	7.50
Andy Thompson	6.50
Floyd Streete	7.50
Ally Robertson	7.00
Phil Robinson	6.60
Robbie Dennison	6.50
Steve Bull	7.83
Andy Mutch	7.00
Mike Holmes	6.33
Gary Bellamy	6.33
Phil Chard	6.50
Keith Downing	6.67
SQUAD RATING	6.73

SHERPA SHOOT-OUT!

Now the 33-year-old utility man faces the prospect of Wembley for the third time in his distinguished career as a Burnley player lining up against Wolves – the club with whom he won a League Cup winners' medal in 1980!

"The whole situation is so ironic," says Peter. "Last year I suffered a terrible experience and I never in all my wildest dreams imagined I would be playing for Burnley in a cup final at Wembley one year later – especially against my old club."

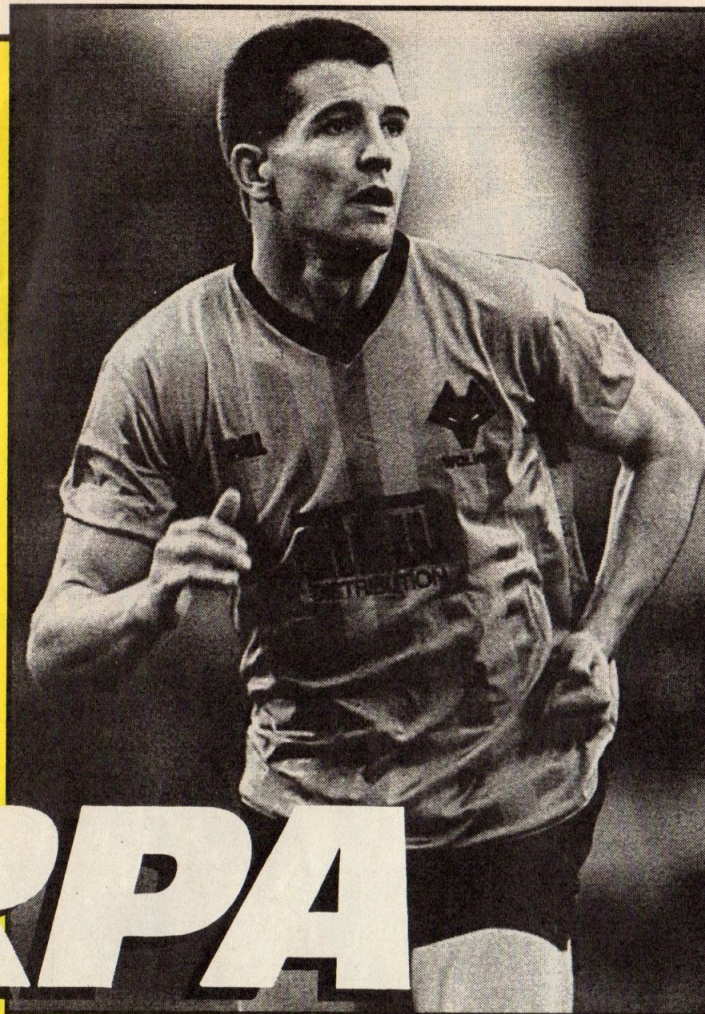
Burnley only stayed in the League by beating Orient on the day we lost to Swansea but that experience has stood them in good stead this season.

"It was a traumatic time for the players and supporters but manager Brian Miller has done a great job and the players he's brought to the club have responded to the challenge."

It was while Peter was searching out new players to re-build Lincoln's future that his own future took its latest twist.

He explains: "I rang Burnley boss Brian Miller to find out if he had any players available which I could sign for Lincoln when he asked me what my own situation was."

"I told him I was being interviewed for the manager's job at Lincoln but he asked me to contact him if things didn't work out. Colin



RIGHT: Peter Daniel back from the depths of despair.

HOW THEY GOT THERE

BURNLEY



PRELIMINARY ROUND: Tranmere 1, BURNLEY 2 (Oghani, Grewcock). BURNLEY 3 (Grewcock, Reeves, Farrell), Rochdale 2. BURNLEY 1 (Oghani), Chester 0.

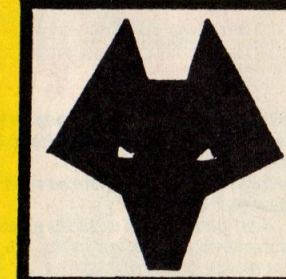
QUARTER-FINAL: Bury 0, BURNLEY 1 (Comstive).

SEMI-FINAL: BURNLEY 0, Halifax 0 (after extra-time, Burnley won 5-3 on pens.).

NORTHERN AREA FINAL: First leg – BURNLEY 0, Preston 0. Second leg – Preston 1, BURNLEY 3 (Oghani, Hoskin, Comstive) (after extra-time).

GOALSCORERS: 3 – Oghani; 2 – Grewcock, Comstive; 1 – Reeves, Farrell, Hoskin.

WOLVES



PRELIMINARY ROUND: Swansea 1, WOLVES 1 (Bull). WOLVES 3 (Vaughan, Bull 2), Bristol City 1. WOLVES 4 (Bull 3, Dennison), Brentford 0.

QUARTER-FINAL: WOLVES 4 (Bull 2, Dennison, Mutch), Peterborough 0.

SEMI-FINAL: WOLVES 1 (Bull), Torquay 0.

SOUTHERN AREA FINAL: First leg – Notts County 1, WOLVES 1 (Bull).

Second leg – WOLVES 3 (Bull 2, Downing), Notts County 0.

GOALSCORERS: 12 – Bull; 2 – Dennison; 1 – Vaughan, Mutch, Downing.



The victorious Wolves team (Peter Daniel, front row, second right) celebrate victory at Wembley in 1980. Now Peter is back beneath the twin towers to face his old club.

THE ONLY WEEKLY FOR BIG MATCH ACTION ...

WHEREVER the big games are taking place, MATCH is there in the thick of the action - bringing you the pictures and stories FIRST.

And just as last week's great issue was unrivalled in its coverage of Wimbledon's historic FA Cup Final victory, so this week's England v Scotland action proves once again that you can count on MATCH when

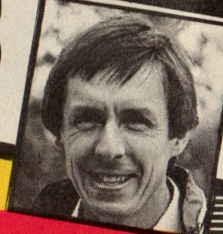
it matters most.

You'll find our pictures from the battle of the 'Auld Enemy' - a crucial warm-up match in England's bid to win the European Championship crown - on Pages 1, 12 and 13.

And there's more European Championship flavour - including a super colour poster - on Pages 19 to 22.

EDITOR'S DESK

WITH MELVYN BAGNALL



ALSO INSIDE

- 1987/88 Football League review Pages 9 to 11
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- Champions Sunderland Page 36

GREAT GIVEAWAYS!

TWO FANTASTIC GIFTS IN ONE SUPER ISSUE

TWO FREE GIFTS WITH ONE ISSUE! That's the amazing double giveaway on its way with next week's MATCH.

Free gift No. 1 is a fabulous, full colour European Championship Finals Wallchart.

Free gift No. 2 is the first set in a series of Euro stickers featuring the top players and teams performing in Germany. Watch out for them attached to the front cover.

The full set of 36 peel-back stickers will be given away over three issues (June 4, 11 and 18) and, when fixed to the giant wallchart, will complete a unique souvenir of the 1988 Finals.

The wallchart will also allow you to fill in the results and other important details of every game played during the tournament.

So make sure of your copy of MATCH - and those fantastic free gifts - by placing a regular order using the coupon below. a regular order using the coupon at the foot of the page.

TRIVIA WINNER AT WEMBLEY

MATCH reader Kevan Platt has won an all expenses-paid trip to Wembley to see England play - thanks to his skills with football trivia.

Thousands of soccer enthusiasts

from all over the UK have been testing their knowledge with a new and exciting telephone competition, the Football Trivia Line, brought to you by MATCH. The questions are posed by Emlyn Hughes.

TO MY NEWSAGENT

Please reserve/deliver my copy of MATCH every week until further notice.

Name

Address

Signed

MATCH FREE GIFT!

EURO STICKERS COMING



Kevan from Hellsdon, Norwich, recorded the top score in one week with 37 correct consecutive answers and can choose from any of England's forthcoming matches at Wembley. He gets a pair of tickets and £50 expenses - or £100 cash.

Football Trivia Line uses the latest technology to enable callers to answer questions by either dialling or pressing buttons on the telephone. Emlyn offers three alternative answers and you just enter the

number of the one you feel is right. The service is presented by MATCH, using technology introduced to the UK by Computerdial Ltd, and the number to call is 0898 80 0888.

In addition to weekly prizes of a pair of tickets to England's Wembley games, there are daily prizes.

Football Trivia Line costs 25p a minute after 6.00pm and at weekends and 38p a minute during the peak periods.

DORIGO'S DREAM!

ENGLAND CALL FOR TONY ...

AS Liverpool's Craig Johnston prepares to pack his bags and return to Australia, England's latest Aussie recruit has spoken about his own battle against homesickness and how it almost forced him to quit the game too!

Ironically, Tony Dorigo's road to stardom is an almost identical one to that of the Anfield hero. Like Craig, Tony left his homeland as a teenager, paid his own air fare to England and staked everything on becoming a First Division soccer star.

And in a season when Craig also burst into the England squad, the Melbourne-born defender now finds himself a surprise eleventh-hour choice for his adopted country after battling to keep his West London club, Chelsea, in the top flight.

But his rise to the top hasn't been easy as former Villa left-back Tony explains: "I came over to England when I was 15 and Villa gave me a chance as an apprentice but, at the time, it was very hard for me and I was very homesick.

"There was a time when I was at Villa - during the days when I used to clean the boots as an apprentice - that I almost threw it all in because I was missing my family. I'm glad I stuck it out now."

Life was made easier for Tony, who finally beat his longing to go back home, when his parents also decided to move over to England and settle in Birmingham.

That left him free to concentrate on his football and, after graduating to Villa's first team, his teenage gamble looked to have paid off when Chelsea shelled out £475,000 to take him to Stamford Bridge.

Now, after a season which left Chelsea battling for their First Division existence and involved in the nerve-racking drama of the play-offs, he's been drafted into the England squad as understudy

IT may be a season to forget for Chelsea but for Stamford Bridge full-back Tony Dorigo it's been a personal victory ...

to Kenny Sansom following an injury to Forest's Stuart Pearce.

Says Tony: "It was a very nice surprise. I didn't expect it at all and, while you always hope you might be called up, I never thought about it too much or built up my hopes.

"Now I've been called up for the squad I'm just hoping to get a game. I'll just keep my fingers crossed that I may even go to Germany."

Uncapped Tony - who left Villa for First Division football - also finds it ironic that he could be in the European Championship squad and in the Second Division while the club he left has bounced back to the top flight at the first attempt under Graham Taylor's management.

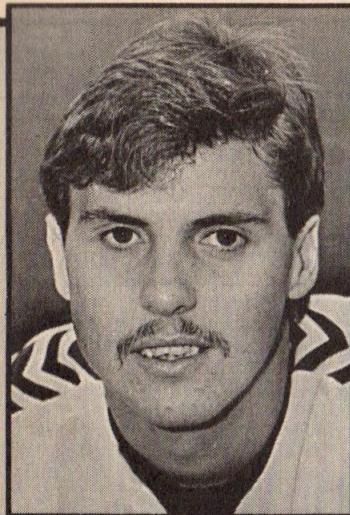
"Yes, that would be very ironic," he adds. "But I still believe I made the right decision because Chelsea are a great club."

Tony Dorigo - almost quit the game and went back to Australia.

Craig Johnston - homesick Aussie.

BACK NUMBERS

OLD FAVOURITES NOW BACK IN STOCK



David Currie - star performer.

STEAMING CURRIE

BARNSELY'S David Currie is too hot to handle... and that's official.

The former Darlington hot-shot was the season's star performer as our exclusive 'Match Facts' table shows.

And to prove his superiority this term, David ended up star man at both Darlington and his new club

Barnsley.
In total he finished pick of the pack in 27 games during the season with Grimsby's Don O'Riordan his nearest challenger on 19 star ratings.

The First Division's star man was Manchester United's revitalised midfielder Gordon Strachan.

Gordon, who also won our 'Matchman of the Month' award for April, deserves to win a new contract from United boss Alex Ferguson after his near-superhuman efforts helped the Old Trafford club finish the season just nine points behind Champions Liverpool.

● The tables (right) show, at a glance, each club's star performer during the League season - the player who achieved the most star ratings in our weekly 'Match Facts' results service.

FINAL TABLES

YOUR check on how they finished up in each division with each

club's leading League scorer and his goal tally.

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Leading scorer	
Liverpool	40	26	12	2	87	24	90	John Aldridge	26
Man. United	40	23	12	5	71	38	81	Brian McClair	22
Nott'm Forest	40	20	13	7	67	39	73	Nigel Clough	19
Everton	40	19	13	8	53	27	70	Wayne Clarke	10
QPR	40	19	10	11	48	38	67	Gary Bannister*	8
Arsenal	40	18	12	10	58	39	66	Alan Smith	11
Wimbledon	40	14	15	11	58	47	57	John Fashanu	14
Newcastle	40	14	14	12	55	53	56	Michael O'Neill	12
Luton	40	14	11	15	57	58	53	Mark Stein	11
Coventry	40	13	14	13	46	53	53	Cyrille Regis	10
Sheff. Wed	40	15	8	17	52	66	53	Lee Chapman	19
Southampton	40	12	14	14	54	55	50	Colin Clarke	16
Tottenham	40	12	11	17	38	48	47	Clive Allen	11
Norwich	40	12	9	19	40	52	45	Kevin Drinkell	12
Derby	40	10	13	17	35	45	43	Phil Gee/John Gregory	6
West Ham	40	9	15	16	40	52	42	Tony Cottee	13
Charlton	40	9	15	16	38	52	42	Garth Crooks	10
Chelsea	40	9	15	16	50	68	42	Gordon Durie	12
Portsmouth	40	7	14	19	36	66	35	Kevin Dillon	9
Watford	40	7	11	22	27	51	32	Luther Blissett	4
Oxford	40	6	13	21	44	80	31	Dean Saunders	12

* Now Coventry

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Leading scorer	
Millwall	44	25	7	12	72	52	82	Teddy Sheringham	21
Aston Villa	44	22	12	10	68	41	78	Warren Aspinall/Gary Thompson	11
Middlesbrough	44	22	12	10	63	36	78	Bernie Slaven	20
Bradford	44	22	11	11	74	54	77	Ron Fletcher	14
Blackburn	44	21	14	9	68	52	77	Simon Garner	14
C. Palace	44	22	9	13	86	59	75	Mark Bright	24
Leeds	44	19	12	13	61	51	69	John Sheridan	12
Ipswich	44	19	9	16	61	52	66	David Lowe	17
Man. City	44	19	8	17	80	60	65	Paul Stewart	24
Oldham	44	18	11	15	72	64	65	Andy Ritchie	19
Stoke	44	17	11	16	50	57	62	Phil Heath	8
Swindon	44	16	11	17	73	60	59	Jimmy Quinn	21
Leicester	44	16	11	17	62	61	59	Gary McAllister	9
Barnsley	44	15	12	17	61	62	57	Steve Lowndes	9
Hull	44	14	15	15	54	60	57	*Garry Parker/Alex Dyer	9
Plymouth	44	16	8	20	65	67	56	Tommy Tynan	16
Bournemouth	44	13	10	21	56	68	49	Trevor Aylott	9
Shrewsbury	44	11	16	17	42	54	49	Mike Brown	5
Birmingham	44	11	15	18	41	66	48	Steve Whitton	14
West Brom	44	12	11	21	50	69	47	Andy Gray	10
Sheff. Utd.	44	13	7	24	45	74	46	Tony Philliskirk	9
Reading	44	10	12	22	44	70	42	Colin Gordon	8
Huddersfield	44	6	10	28	41	100	28	Duncan Shearer	10

* Now Nott'm Forest.

DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Leading scorer	
Sunderland	46	27	12	7	92	48	93	Marco Gabbiadini	22
Brighton	46	23	15	8	69	47	84	Garry Nelson	20
Walsall	46	23	13	10	68	50	82	David Kelly	20
Notts County	46	23	12	11	82	49	81	Ian McParland	20
Bristol City	46	21	12	13	77	62	75	Alan Walsh	12
Northampton	46	18	19	9	70	51	73	Trevor Morley*	11
Wigan	46	20	12	14	70	61	72	Paul Jewell	12
Bristol Rovers	46	18	12	16	68	56	66	Gary Penrice	17
Fulham	46	19	9	18	69	60	66	Leroy Rosenior**	20
Blackpool	46	17	14	15	71	62	65	Mark Taylor	21
Port Vale	46	18	11	17	58	56	65	Darren Beckford	9
Brentford	46	16	14	16	53	59	62	Andy Sinton	11
Gillingham	46	14	17	15	77	61	59	Steve Lovell	25
Bury	46	15	14	17	58	57	59	Liam Robinson	19
Chester	46	14	16	16	51	62	58	Stuart Rimmer***	24
Preston	46	15	13	18	48	59	58	Gary Brazill	14
Southend	46	14	13	19	65	83	55	David Crown	17
Chesterfield	46	15	10	21	41	70	55	Dave Waller	19
Mansfield	46	14	12	20	48	59	54	Steve Charles	12
Aldershot	46	15	8	23	64	74	53	Tommy Langley	12
Rotherham	46	12	16	18	50	65	52	Paul Haycock	12
Grimsby	46	12	14	20	48	58	50	Mark North	12
York	46	8	9	29	48	91	33	Dale Banton	16
Doncaster	46	8	9	29	40	84	33	Brian Deane	10

* Now Man. City. **Now West Ham. ***Now Watford.

DIVISION FOUR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Leading scorer	
Wolves	46	27	9	10	82	43	90	Steve Bull	35
Cardiff	46	24	13	9	66	41	85	Jimmy Gilligan	19
Bolton	46	22	12	12	66	42	78	John Thomas	23
Scunthorpe	46	20	17	9	76	51	77	Andy Founders	24
Torquay	46	21	14	11	66	41	77	Paul Dobson	22
Swansea	46	20	10	16	62	56	70	Colin Pascoe*	13
Peterborough	46	20	10	16	52	53	70	Mick Gooding	18
Leyton Orient	46	19	12	15	85	63	69	Ian Juryeff	16
Colchester	46	19	10	17	47	51	67	Dale Tempest	11
Burnley	46	20	7	19	57	62	67	George Oghani	14
Wrexham	46	20	6	20	69	58	66	Kevin Russell	21
Scarboro	46	17	14	15	56	48	65	Stuart Mell	8
Darlington	46	18	11	17	71	69	65	David Currie**	21
Tranmere	46	19	9	18	61	53	64	Ian Muir	27
Cambridge	46	16	13	17	50	52	61	David Crown***	9
Hartlepool	46	15	14	17	50	57	59	Paul Baker	20
Crewe	46	13	19	14	57	53	58	David Platte	19
Halifax	46	14	14	18	54	59	55	Rick Holden**	10
Hereford	46	14	12	20	41	59	54	Phil Stant	9
Stockport	46	12	15	19	44	58	51	Bob Colville	13
Rochevale	46	11	15	20	47	76	48	Lyndon Simmonds	12
Exeter	46	11	13	22	53	68	46	Dean Edwards	12
Carlisle	46	12	8	26	57	86	44	Malcolm Poskett	12
Newport	46	6	7	33	35	105	25	Robbie Taylor	4

Tranmere 2 pts deducted; Halifax one point deducted. *Now Sunderland. **Now Barnsley. ***Now Southend. *Now Aston Villa. **Now Watford.

DIVISION ONE

Team	Player	Star ratings
ARSENAL	David Rocastle	8
CHARLTON	Steve Mackenzie	4
CHELSEA	Micky Hazard	8
COVENTRY	Dave Bennett	6
DERBY	Mark Wright	10
EVERTON	Graeme Sharp	6
LIVERPOOL	Peter Beardsley	10
LUTON	Ricky Hill	5
MAN. UTD	Gordon Strachan	14
NEWCASTLE	Paul Gascoigne	10
NORWICH	Kevin Drinkell	5
NOTT'M FOREST	Des Walker	8
OXFORD	Trevor Hebbard	7
PORTSMOUTH	Alan Knight	10
QPR	Paul Parker	11
SHEFF. WED.	Lee Chapman	8
SOUTHAMPTON	Jimmy Case	7
TOTTENHAM	Ossie Ardiles	9
	(now Blackburn)	
WATFORD	Tony Coton	8
WEST HAM	Liam Brady	7
WIMBLEDON	Dennis Wise	9

DIVISION TWO

Team	Player	Star Ratings
ASTON VILLA	Nigel Spink	6
BARNSELY	David Currie	7
BIRMINGHAM	Steve Whitton	9
BLACKBURN	Simon Barker	8
BOURNEMOUTH	Trevor Aylott	5
BRADFORD	Stuart McCall	17
C. PALACE	Ian Wright	15
HUDDERSFIELD	Ian Banks	8
HULL	Billy Askew	9
IPSWICH	Ian Cranston	9
	(now Sheff. Wed.)	
LEEDS	John Sheridan	10
LEICESTER	Russell Osman	6
MAN. CITY	Paul Stewart	10
MIDDLESBROUGH	Tony Mowbray	6
MILLWALL	Tony Castarino	5
OLDHAM	Andy Ritchie	10
PLYMOUTH	John Matthews	5
READING	Michael Gilkes	6
SHEFFIELD UNITED	Brian Smith	7
SHREWSBURY	Bernard McNally	9
STOKE	Steve Parkin	7
SWINDON	Dave Bamber	7
W. BROM	Carlton Palmer	6

DIVISION THREE

Team	Player	Star Ratings
ALDERSHOT	Ian McDonald	6
BLACKPOOL	Mark Taylor	11
BRENTFORD	Andy Sinton	9
BRIGHTON	Steve Gelling	10
BRISTOL CITY	Keith Waugh	6
BRISTOL ROVERS	Gary Penrice	6
BURY	Mark Higgins	6
CHESTER	Graham Barrow	6
CHESTERFIELD	Tristan Benjamin	6
DONCASTER	Andy Rhodes	6
	(now Oldham)	
FULHAM	Leroy Rosenior	9
	(now West Ham)	
GILLINGHAM	David Smith	7
GRIMSBY	Don O'Riordan	19
MANSFIELD	Kevin Kent	9
NORTHAMPTON	Trevor Morley	7
	(now Man. City)	
NOTTS CO.	Ian McParland	7
PORT VALE	Ray Walker	12
PRESTON	Brian Mooney	10
ROTHERHAM	Tony Greulich	12
SOUTHEND	Martin Ling	8
SUNDERLAND	John McPhail	5
WALSALL	Craig Shakespeare	8
WIGAN	David Hamilton	8
YORK	Dale Banton	6

DIVISION FOUR

Team	Player	Star ratings
BOLTON	David Felgate	12
BURNLEY	Steve Davis	9
CAMBRIDGE	John Beck	11
CARDIFF	Jimmy Gilligan	8
CARLISLE	Malcolm Poskett	5
COLCHESTER CREWE	Richard Wilkins	6
	Peter Bodak	
	(now Swansea)	
DARLINGTON	David Currie	7
	(now Barnsley)	
EXETER	Paul Batty	8
HALIFAX	Mick Matthews	9
HARTLEPOOL	Brian Honour	7
NEWPORT	Steve Tupling	5
LEYTON ORIENT	Alan Comfort	7
PETERBOROUGH	Mick Gooding	15
ROCHDALE	Lyndon Simmonds	10
SCARBOROUGH	Neil Thompson	7
SCUNTHORPE	Andy Founders	9
STOCKPORT	Andy Hodgkinson	6
SWANSEA	Alan Davies	10
TORQUAY	Sean Haslegrave	8
TRANMERE	Ian Muir	7
WOLVES	Steve Bull	16
WREXHAM	Kevin Russell	6

YOU CAN'T BEAT A BIT OF BULLY!

STEVE OUT-SHOOTS MIGHTY McCLAIR

MANCHESTER UNITED have at last unearthed a striker who can score 20 League goals, but even the outstanding efforts of Brian McClair were overshadowed by a crop-haired 23-year-old from the Fourth Division.

Steve Bull smashed an astonishing 53 goals in Wolves' Championship-winning season to finish a remarkable 22 goals ahead of his nearest rivals in the goal charts.

Three players ended the season with a total of 31 goals but none were more significant than the efforts of 'Super Scot' McClair at Old Trafford in his first season after an £850,000 move from Celtic.

His 24 goals made him the first United player to break the 20-goal barrier since George Best in 1967-68. But, at the other end of the scale, spare a thought for poor Newport, whose leading scorer Robbie Taylor managed just five goals all season - including two in one game!

Goal number 30 of the season for Manchester United striker Brian McClair against Wimbledon.

YOUR check on the leading scorers in each division. Lg - League; FAC - FA Cup; LC - Littlewoods Cup; Oth - other competitions.

DIVISION ONE

	Lg	FAC	LC	Oth	Total
Brian McClair (Man. Utd)	24	2	5	0	31
John Aldridge (Liverpool)	26	2	1	0	29
Stuart Rimmer (Watford)*	25	0	1	2	28
Leroy Rosenior (West Ham)**	25	1	1	0	27
Nigel Clough (Not'm Forest)	25	1	0	0	22
Lee Chapman (Sheff. Wed.)	19	2	1	0	22
John Fashanu (Wimbledon)	14	4	3	0	21
Mick Harford (Luton)	9	6	3	3	21
Dean Saunders (Oxford)	12	6	2	1	21
Graeme Sharp (Everton)	13	6	1	0	20

*includes 22 goals for Luton
**includes 22 goals for Luton

SCOTCHED!

LEIGHTON SAVES SCOTLAND'S BLUSHES

NEW Manchester United 'keeper Jim Leighton was Scotland's hero at Wembley on Saturday as Peter Beardsley and his England team-mates threatened to run up a cricket score. Leighton made a series of world class saves – succumbing only to a piece of real brilliance by the bewitching Beardsley that 'scotched' the hopes of the tartan hordes that had flocked to Wembley.

Left: It's Leighton in action again, throwing himself at a Chris Waddle shot that goes narrowly wide. Bottom: It's there! Peter Beardsley's cheeky chip after a great one-two with John Barnes beats Leighton for the only goal of the game. And below, the Liverpool star (left) turns away to receive the acclaim of Bryan Robson (7) and Gary Lineker.



Pictures: Phil Bagnall

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- Visits by star professional players and officials!
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- Trophies and medals for the best pupils!



Left: Dave Watson presents the trophies to the star pupils following a week at the 'School of Soccer'. Next time it could be you!

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And for your residential week you can choose either to stay at Gosfield School on the Essex/Suffolk border or Beech Hall at Macclesfield, Cheshire.

The available dates to choose from are: July 24-30; July 31-Aug. 6; Aug. 7-13; Aug. 14-20.

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- 1 At which club is Mel Machin manager?
- 2 From where did Everton sign Dave Watson?
- 3 Kevin Ratcliffe is the recognised skipper of which country?

Use the special entry form (below) for your answers and don't forget to include your name, age, address, choice of school and choice of week.

Entries should arrive no later than Friday June 3 and should be sent to: 'School of Soccer' Competition, MATCH, 14 Holkham Road, Orton Southgate, Peterborough PE3

OUF.
Normal MATCH competition rules apply and please do not include any other correspondence with your entries.

The senders of the first three correct entries pulled out on the closing date will make up our lucky winners. Good luck!

ENTRY FORM

Answers: 1

2 3

Name

Age

Address

Choice of school

Choice of week (state dates)

☐ (tick box if you require S.O.S leaflet)

Sunday, May 15

(Evening kick-off from last week)

Play-off, Semi-Finals,
First Leg

Division Two/Three

BRISTOL CITY (1) 1 (Walsh 43)
SHEFFIELD UNITED (0) 0
Att: 25,335
Bristol City: Waugh 7, Llewellyn 7, Newman 6, Humphries 6, Pender 6, McClaren 7, Milne 6, Galliers 7, Gordon 6 (sub. Shutt 6). ★WALSH 8, Neville 7 (sub. Jordan 6).
Sheff Utd: Benstead 6, Wilder 7, Powell 7, Webster 6, Stanciliffe 6, Barnsley 6, Hetherston 5 (sub. Pike 6), Withe 6 (sub. Philliskirk 6). ★CADETTE 8, Downes 6, Beagrie 7.
Referee: J. Martin (Alton)
Match Rating: ★★

Tuesday, May 17

Rous Cup

SCOTLAND (0) 0
COLUMBIA (0) 0
Att: 20,487 (at Hampden Park)
Scotland: Leighton 7, Gough 7, McLeish 7, Miller 7, ★NICOL 8, McStay 5, Aitken 6, MacLeod 6, Gallacher 6 (sub. Walker 4), McCoist 4 (sub. Ferguson 5), Johnston 5, Columbia: Higuete 7, Herrera 7, Perea 7, Estobar 7, Hoyoz 7, Alvarez 5, Iguaran 5, ★VALDERRAMA 8, Redin 7, Garcia 6, Prellez 6 (sub. Arrango).
Referee: V. Correia (Portugal)
Match Rating: ★★

Wednesday, May 18

Play-off, Semi-Finals,
Second Leg

Division One/Two

CHELSEA (1) 4 (Wilson, K. 26, 78, Dixon 54, Durie 83)
BLACKBURN (0) 1 (Sellers 61)
Chelsea win 6-1 on aggregate.
Att: 22,757
Chelsea: Hitchcock 6, Clarke 6, Wilson, C. 6, Pates 5, McLaughlin 4, Hall 7, Nevin 8, Burnstead 7 (sub. McAllister), Dixon 6, Durie 8, ★WILSON, K. 9. Sub not used: Wicks.
Blackburn: Gennoe 7, Reid 6, Miller 5, Barker 7, Mail 5 (sub. Hill 6), Hendry 6, Gayle 7, Archibald 7, ★ARDILES 8, Garner 6, Sellers 7. Sub not used: Ainscov.
Referee: A. Gunn (Burgess Hill)
Match Rating: ★★

MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 2 (Slaven 35, Hamilton 91)
BRADFORD (0) 0
After extra-time. Middlesbrough win 3-2 on aggregate.
Att: 25,868
Middlesbrough: Pears 7, Parkinson 8, Cooper 7, Mowbray 8, ★HAMILTON 9, Pallister 7, Slaven 7, Ripley 8 (sub. Kernaghan), Senior 7, Glover 8, Kerr 6 (sub. Laws).
Bradford: ★TOMLINSON 9, Abbott 7, Goddard 6, McCall 8, Oliver 7, Evans 6 (sub. Leonard), Hendrie 7, Sinnott 6, Ormondroyd 8, Kennedy 7, Futchter 7 (sub. Palin 6).
Referee: J. Worrall (Warrington)
Match Rating: ★★

Division Two/Three

SHEFFIELD UNITED (0) 1 (Morris 48)
BRISTOL CITY (1) 1 (Shutt 16)
Bristol City win 2-1 on aggregate.
Att: 19,066
Sheff Utd: Benstead 7, Powell 6, Pike 7, Webb 6, Stanciliffe 7, Barnsley 6 (sub. Agana), Morris 6, ★CADETTE 8, Williams 6, Downes 6, Beagrie 6. Sub not used: Hetherston.

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PLAYER RATINGS

- 10 Out of this world
- 9 Outstanding
- 8 Excellent
- 7 Good
- 6 Adequate
- 5 Off form
- 4 Poor

MATCH RATINGS

- ★★★★★ A classic
- ★★★★ Good value
- ★★★ Satisfactory
- ★★ Dull
- ★ A waste of money

Bristol City: Waugh 7, Llewellyn 7, Newman 6, Humphries 7, Pender 7, McClaren 6, Milne 7, Galliers 7, Gordon 6 (sub. Jordan 7), ★WALSH 8, Shutt 7. Sub not used: Marshall.
Referee: G. Courtney (Spennymoor)
Match Rating: ★★

WALSALL (0) 1 (Christie 60)
NOTTS COUNTY (1) 1 (Yates 12)
Walsall win 4-2 on aggregate.
Att: 8,901
Walsall: Barber 6, Taylor 6, O'Kelly 6, Shakespeare 7, Forbes 7, Goodwin 7, Hawker 7, Hart 6 (sub. Dorman 6), ★CHRISTIE 8, Kelly 7, Naughton 6. Sub not used: Jones, M.
Notts County: Leonard 6, McStay 6, Withe 7, Fairclough 6, Yates 7, Hart 6, Mills 7, Barnes 6 (sub. Lund 5), ★BIRTLES 8, Pike 6 (sub. McParland 6), Thorne 6.
Referee: R. Milford (Bristol)
Match Rating: ★★

Division Three/Four

ROTHERHAM (1) 1 (Johnson 44)
SWANSEA (1) 1 (McCarthy 19)
Swansea win 2-1 on aggregate.
Att: 5,568
Rotherham: O'Hanlon 7, ★DOUGLAS 8, Crosby 5, Goodwin 7, Johnson 7, Green 7, Campbell 6, Dungworth 6, Haycock 6 (sub. Greallish), Airey 7 (sub. Mendonca 5), Buckley 7.
Swansea: Guthrie 7, Harrison 7, Coleman 7, Melville 7, Knill 6, James 6, ★DAVIS 8, Hutchison 7 (sub. Lewis 5), McCarthy 7, Raynor 6, Bodak 6. Sub not used: Emmanuel.
Referee: B. Stevens (Stonehouse)
Match Rating: ★★

SCUNTHORPE (0) 1 (Lister, pen 86)
TORQUAY (0) 1 (Loram 80)
Torquay win 3-2 on aggregate.
Scunthorpe: Green 7, Stevenson 7, Longden 6 (sub. Atkins), Taylor 7, ★LISTER 8, McLean 6, Richardson 6 (sub. Dixon), Shearer 6, Daws 6, Flounders 7, Hill 6.
Torquay: Allen 7, McNicol 6, Kelly 7, ★HASLEGRAVE 8, Cole 7, Impey 7, Pearce (sub. Sharp 7, sub. Caldwell), Lloyd 7, Loram 7, Dobson 6, Gibbins 6.
Referee: G. Tyson (Sunderland)
Match Rating: ★★

Welsh Cup Final

CARDIFF (2) 2 (Curtis 13, Gilligan 34)
WREXHAM (0) 0
Att: 5,465 (at Swansea)
Cardiff: Wood 7, Bate 7, Platnauer 6, Ford 6, Stevenson 6, Boyle 6, Curtis 7, Kelly 6, ★GILLIGAN 8, McDermott 6, Bartlett 7 (sub. Wheeler). Sub not used: Mardenborough.

MATCHWINNERS

The lucky winners of the England poster competition which appeared in our May 7 issue each received a super European Championship poster magazine. They are as follows:

Ian Johnson, Clitheroe; H. Fletcher, Aldrough; Paul Grant, Bexley; Richard Duffield, Muthwaite; C. Clewlow, Stoke-on-Trent; D. Rock, Croydon; Mark Hapburn, Forest Row; K. Beardshall, Hull; Robert Phillips, Billingham; Paul Bryant, Frattin; Paul Patell, Swindon; C. Barwick, Potters Bar; Matthew Brett, Reading; Kevin Cooper, Craven Arms; Alan Russell, Salisbury; R. Lloyd, Egham; Dean Tonks, Braunstone; Julie Haswell, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Phillip Williams, Thorpe Bay; M. Falconer, Strathgry; Rob Maddox, Darwen; A. Wedlock, Ashton; Keith Would, Kings Heath; Simon Griffiths, Market Deeping; Johns Smith, Leominster; S. Coulthard, Liverpool; Rev T. Barr, Avonmouth; Lynsey Heather, Lancing; Leon Hamilton, Southend-on-Sea; Simon Phillips, Leeds; James Ross, Fareham; Chris Daley, Sawston; Neil Parkinson, Chester-le-Street; J. Bateman, Sunningdale; C. Trenmouth, Newcastle; D. Haslam, Coppice; Richard Minor, Ealing; Jonathon Boyle, Etchingham; Jamie Neakin, Chesterfield; Michael Parsons, East Stanley; B. Matthew, Silkestone Common; Matthew Webster, South Woodlakes Park; P. Travis, Castleford; J. O'Connor, Liss; J. Evans, Spalding; Colin Stark, Fakenham; Mark Skell, Alfreton; Antony Lucas, Romsey; M. Eagles, Bucknall; A. Newcombe, Glen Parva; Simon Rust, Wisbech; Nigel Hedges, Banbury; Kerrin Winn, Bingley; Martin Lee, Norwich; Simon Ballard, Woking; Graeme Price, Amptill; M. Ellis, Bradford; Stephen Williams, Denton; Robert Nash, Walthamstow; Stephen Podd, Spalding; Justin Cooke, Grays; Sean Killen, Cramlington; Joe Seaton, Epsom; Guy Dunwoody, Fincham; Pavie Ashburn, West Heath; P. Banthorpe, Braintree; John Barnett, Horeham; Gavin Presley, Hadleigh; M. Fisher, Birling; Pippa Walker, Eastleigh; Andrew Milburn, Hartlepool; D. Goring, St. Leonards-on-Sea; Peter Walton, Blyth; Ian Croston, Tile Hill; Peter Anderson, Winsor Green; Paul Quinn, Edenthorpe; C. Mitchell, New Basford; Gareth Jones, Beaconsfield; T. Smaulders, Ilford; Lee Bird, Chelmsley Wood; Paul Price, Leyburn; Philip Steel, Pocklington; James Glew, Intake; Paul Fowler, Newbury; Marcus Leek, Redcar; A. Gilbert, Bedford; David Daniels, Hucclecote; Nicholas Quintin, Bradford-on-Avon; James Goodman, Newbury; Stewart Valler, Lingfield; Gavin Denison, Woking; Gavin Slater, Peterborough; M. Makeshaft, Preston; Stephen Davies, Shrewsbury; D. Foster, Kettering; Christopher Bird, Fareham; Donal Blaney, Tonbridge; A. White, Barrow-in-Furness; Ian Day, Thurnscoe; Yasmin Patel, Manor Park.

UEFA Cup, Final, Second Leg

BAYER LEVERKUSEN (0) 3 (Tita, Gotz, Cha Bum-kun)
ESPANOL (0) 0
After extra-time. Aggregate score 3-3.
Bayer Leverkusen win 3-2 on penalties.
Att: 43,000

Saturday, May 21

Rous Cup

ENGLAND (1) 1 (Beardsley 10)
SCOTLAND (0) 0
Att: 70,480 (at Wembley)
England: Shilton 6, Stevens 6, Sansom 6, Webb 7, Watson 6, Adams 7, Robson 7, Steven 6 (sub. Waddle), ★BEARDSLEY 8, Lineker 6, Barnes 6.
Scotland: ★LEIGHTON 9, Gough 7, Nicol 7, Aitken 6, McLeish 7, Miller 6, Simpson 6 (sub. Burns), McStay 6, McCoist 5 (sub. Gallacher), MacLeod 6, Johnston 5.
Referee: J. Quiniou (France)
Match Rating: ★★

World Cup, Qualifying Round Group Six

NORTHERN IRELAND (3) 3 (Quinn 14, Penney 24, Clarke 26)
MALTA (0) 0
Att: 9,000 (at Windsor Park)

● NOW turn to our 1987/88 Football League Review, containing all the facts and figures for the season, starting on Page 9.



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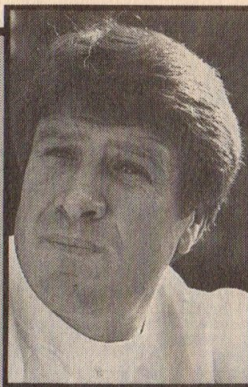
PRICES INCLUDE P&P ALLOW 28 DAYS DELIVERY



AYR UNITED'S Scottish Second Division Championship-winning side:
BACK ROW (left to right): Jim Cowell, Robert Brown, Kenny Wilson, Jim McCann, Willie Furphy, Ross Scott, George Watson.
FRONT ROW: Steve McIntyre, Jim Hughes, Steve Evans, Tommy Walker, Ian McAllister, Henry Templeton, John Sludden.

Ayr commmenders!

Dear Emlyn



FORMER Liverpool skipper Emlyn Hughes – who tasted both victory and defeat in FA Cup Finals – looks back through your letters to the day his beloved 'Reds' saw their dreams of an incredible 'double, double' shattered.

If you have a question for the former England star, the address to write to is 'Dear Emlyn', MATCH, Stirling House, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8DJ. Don't forget to include your chest and boot size in case you are among our lucky winners, who this week are Derek Harrison of Nottingham (Taurus leather football), and Caroline Walker of Great Yarmouth (Hi-Tec sweat top).

DEAR EMLYN

THE underdogs have done it again! Wimbledon's fantastic victory at Wembley made them the third team this season to win a Final – after Reading and Luton – when they were least expected to. They fully deserved to win but have you any idea why the favourites keep missing out? Derek Harrison, Nottingham.

● NO idea at all, Derek. I agree with you that the 'Dons' were worthy winners. Liverpool didn't perform – or weren't allowed to – and Wimbledon stole a goal. It wasn't a classic Final by any means but there was only ever going to be one team in it.

DEAR EMLYN

I WAS appalled by referee Brian Hill's display at Wembley. He disallowed a goal that quite clearly should have stood and then gave a penalty that quite obviously wasn't. His performance ruined what should have been a great occasion. Caroline Walker, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

● TO say Brian Hill had a poor game by his standards would be an understatement. He was quite clearly wrong to blow up when he did for Andy Thorn's attempted foul on Peter Beardsley. He should have allowed play to continue until Peter either scored or missed and then had a quiet word with the defender concerned. But by giving Liverpool a penalty he only succeeded in getting himself in bigger trouble. Clive Goodyear's tackle on John Aldridge was never in a million years a penalty.

■ MORE MATCH READERS AIR THEIR VIEWS IN MICK'S MAILBAG – SEE PAGE 30.

John Aldridge – penalty that never was.

DEAR EMLYN

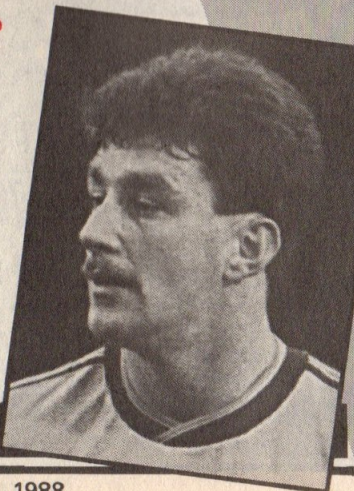
WHY isn't Dave Beasant in Bobby Robson's England squad? He was brilliant in the FA Cup Final – and I'm a Liverpool fan! I don't think the 'Dons' deserved to win the Cup, but Beasant certainly did. Rachel Buxton, Chaddesden, Derby.

● DAVE should certainly be in the England squad and I rate him as probably the third best in the country behind Chris Woods and Peter Shilton. He commands his area, is very good on crosses and is certainly worth a place in one of Bobby's squads.

DEAR EMLYN

WELL, you and all the other 'experts' got it wrong in predicting that Liverpool would thrash the 'Wombles' of Wimbledon. There was only one team in it and they certainly weren't wearing red shirts. Carol Fryer, Ewell, Surrey.

● COULDN'T agree with you more, Carol. Wimbledon played to their strengths and Liverpool didn't. They passed for the sake of it and never really looked like carving up Wimbledon's defence. But don't worry, Liverpool will come back.



FOUR of Wimbledon's FA Cup-winning heroes could be on their way out of Plough Lane. The club have announced that DAVE BEASANT, DENNIS WISE, JOHN FASHANU, and ANDY THORN could all be allowed to leave, if any big clubs make offers.

Managing director Sam Hammam revealed: "If Manchester United, Barcelona or any other big-name club come in for my players the club will not stand in their way. If any player got the opportunity to go to a bigger club, we would lose all credibility if we stood in their way."

Beasant, who made history by becoming the first goalkeeper to skipper a side to an FA Cup victory, has been on Arsenal's wanted list since last season while Fashanu has also been linked with the Highbury club – as well as Everton and West Ham.

England Under-21 defender Thorn and Wise are both regarded as youngsters who



Dave Beasant – on his way from Plough Lane?

Hot Gossip

Reporter Ray Ryan's weekly round-up of all the big transfers... and the latest rumours!

have bright futures in the game so they could be snapped up by the bigger clubs in the next few months.

Meanwhile Wimbledon's FA Cup opponents Liverpool are attempting to keep CRAIG JOHNSTON at Anfield. Johnston revealed that he wanted to quit the British game and return to Australia but Kenny Dalglish is desperately trying to make him reverse his decision.

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson might also be forced to plead with one of his stars to stay at the club. That's because England skipper BRYAN ROBSON was the subject of a 'name your price' bid from French club Strasbourg. The offer comes just weeks after Ferguson splashed out £750,000 to buy JIM LEIGHTON from Aberdeen. If Ferguson does release Robson, then he could use the money received in his attempt at bringing PAUL GASCOIGNE and GARY PALLISTER to the club.

However, Old Trafford holds no more fascination for ARTHUR ALBISTON. The

experienced defender has not figured in Ferguson's long-term plans and he looks set to leave before the start of next season. Albiston is wanted by both Oxford and newly-promoted Millwall but, as he wishes to stay in the North West, he could send out an SOS message to Mel Machin to bring him to Manchester City.

Other First Division news has seen STEVE OGRIZOVIC ask for a transfer from Coventry while Derby's ROSS MACLAREN has turned down a new contract because he wants guaranteed first team football next season. Luton will also release veteran BRIAN STEIN on a free transfer. The Littlewoods Cup hero may link up with former boss David Pleat and join Leicester.

Finally into the Second Division where Stoke manager Mick Mills could be about to form his own version of the old pals' act. Mills has lined up three former Ipswich teammates in an effort to bring Stoke into Division One. On his wanted list are ERIC GATES, PAUL MARINER and ALAN BRAZIL.

Countdown to



Germany

AFTER several years during which they earned a reputation as one of the most skilful and entertaining teams in the world, the Soviet Union's ageing squad is now presented with a last chance of international glory.

Having appeared in four previous final stages, they will lack nothing in experience of the pressures and tensions of the tournament and could turn out to be the most dangerous outsiders.

Glasgow Rangers may have done them a favour when they knocked Dynamo Kiev out of the European Cup in the second round last season. Their elimination meant the Kiev players, who form the backbone of the USSR's national team,

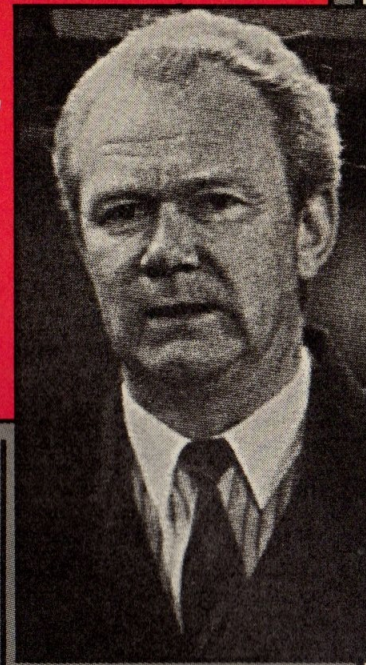
No. 6: USSR

WELCOME to the most comprehensive European Championship dossier available. Each week up until the start of the Finals, MATCH is focusing on one of the eight hopefuls aiming to follow France as Champions of Europe.

MATCH tells you everything you need to know about the competing teams, from star players to probable squad, the manager, fixtures in Germany, and, as an added bonus, there is a spectacular colour poster (see over the page).

This week the spotlight falls on the USSR – complete with colour poster of Igor Belanov.

Collect all eight in the series and, by the time the Finals get underway, you will have an indispensable dossier.



Valery Lobanovsky – the USSR manager.

Championship tournament in 1960, reached the Final in 1954 and 1972 and the Semi-Finals in 1968.

And while they failed to impress during this tournament's qualifying stages in which their excellent home record enabled them to overwhelm East Germany and France to top Group Three, they have shown signs of recapturing their best form during the second half of the season.

At their best the Russians are a brilliant side capable of thrilling improvisational play. Any of their individuals would not look out of place in any other international side with Igor Belanov and Oleg Protasov likely to emerge again as their stars.

Both have suffered from injuries in the last year but have fought back to recover their best form and should enjoy the stimulation of playing in what promises to be one of the most evenly contested international tournaments for years.

The USSR's 'Red Army'.

The team will almost certainly include Rinat Dasaev in goal – a man still regarded by some as the best 'keeper in the world – but one name that will be missing from the great Soviet team of recent years – who can forget their 6-0 thrashing of Hungary during the 1986 World Cup Finals? – will be veteran winger Oleg Blokhin who has finally retired from international football after a decade at the top.

The men he has left behind will, however, do all they can to spoil the chances of both England and Eire in the opening group section as the USSR bid to reach the Semi-Finals for the fifth time in the history of the tournament.

FIXTURES

GROUP TWO

June 12: Holland v USSR (Cologne, 7.15).

June 15: Eire v USSR (Hanover, 7.15).

June 18: England v USSR (Frankfurt, 2.30).

COLOURS: Red shirts, white shorts, red socks.





IGOR BELANOV
USSR



MATCH

Countdown to



Germany

BEWARE BELANOV

HOW THEY QUALIFIED

THE USSR's route to the 1988 Finals:

Group Three

SEPTEMBER 24, 1986: Iceland (1) 1 (Gudjohnsen 29), USSR (1) 1 (Sulakvelidze 44). Att: 7,000.

OCTOBER 11, 1986: France (0) 0, USSR (0) 2 (Belanov 67, Rats 73). Att: 40,496.

OCTOBER 29, 1986: USSR (3) 4 (Litovchenko 25, Belanov pen 27, Blokhin, Khidiatulin 52), Norway (0) 0. Att: 35,000.

APRIL 29, 1987: USSR (1) 2 (Zavarov 41, Belanov 49), East Germany (0) 0. Att: 95,000.

JUNE 3, 1987: Norway (0) 0, USSR (1) 1 (Zavarov 15). Att: 10,473.

SEPTEMBER 9, 1987: USSR (0) 1 (Mikhailichenko 77), France (1) 1 (Toure 13). Att: 100,000.

OCTOBER 10, 1987: East Germany (1) 1 (Kirsten 44), USSR (0) 1 (Aleinikov 60). Att: 25,000.

OCTOBER 28, 1987: USSR (1) 2 (Belanov 15, Protasov 50), Iceland (0) 0. Att: 40,000.

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
USSR	8	5	3	0	14	3	13
East Germany	8	4	3	1	13	4	11
France	8	1	4	3	4	7	6
Iceland	8	2	2	4	4	14	6
Norway	8	1	2	5	5	12	4

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD

1958-60: Winners after beating Yugoslavia 2-1 in Final (after extra-time).

1962-64: Lost 2-1 to Spain in Final.

1966-68: Lost 2-0 to England in Third Place match.

1970-72: Lost 3-0 to West Germany in Final.

1974-76: Lost 4-2 on aggregate to Czechoslovakia in Quarter-Finals.

1978-80: Failed to qualify from Group Six.

1982-84: Failed to qualify from Group One.

PROBABLE SQUAD

Name	Age	Club	Caps	Goals
GOALKEEPERS				
Rinat Dasaev	30	Spartak Moscow	74	—
Viktor Chanov	28	Dynamo Kiev	5	—
DEFENCE				
Viktor Losev	29	Dynamo Moscow	3	—
Oleg Kuznetsov	25	Dynamo Kiev	21	—
Vagiz Khidiatulin	29	Spartak Moscow	41	8
Yevgeny Yarovenko	24	Kairat Alma Ata	2	—
Anatoly Demyanenko	29	Dynamo Kiev	60	5
Alexander Bubnov	34	Spartak Moscow	34	1
Sergei Baltacha	30	Dynamo Kiev	40	2
MIDFIELD				
Gennady Litovchenko	24	Dynamo Kiev	26	4
Ivan Yaremchuk	26	Dynamo Kiev	9	2
Vadim Tischenko	25	Dnep. Dnep.	2	—
Sergei Aleinikov	26	Dynamo Minsk	38	3
Vasily Rats	27	Dynamo Kiev	17	2
ATTACK				
Igor Dobrovolsky	20	Dynamo Moscow	5	2
Pavel Yakovenko	24	Dynamo Kiev	14	1
Oleg Protasov	24	Dynamo Kiev	29	12
A. Mikhailichenko	25	Dynamo Kiev	6	1
Igor Belanov	27	Dynamo Kiev	18	8
Sergei Rodionov	25	Spartak Moscow	29	8

THE Soviet Union's veteran team will rely for goals on the pace and finesse of striker Igor Belanov.

The Dynamo Kiev star, a former 'European Footballer of the Year', has been one of the leading stars in Russian football for the last five years. And the European Championship Finals will

SOVIETS RELY ON HIT-MAN IGOR

offer him his final chance of proving he is a world-class player and winning his first major medal in the international game.

Twenty-seven-year-old Belanov has been a driving force in Dynamo Kiev's European campaign of recent seasons and his familiarity with the skills and the individual styles of the many Kiev men around him in the Soviet team always help to make him a major threat.

He is quick, skilful, nimble and deadly in front of goal and a modern striker in the European trend.

Like many of his Russian team-mates, however, Belanov has shown signs of fatigue in recent seasons after playing all the year round for Kiev and the Russian team.

Belanov caught the eye of many observers during the 1986 World Cup Finals and he has scored four goals to emerge as their most dangerous striker during the qualifying stages en route to the West Germany Finals.

Igor Belanov - driving force in the USSR team.



TOUTS TRACKED

YOU can only applaud the Football Association's clampdown on the ticket touts.

Liverpool trading standards officers were at Wembley for the FA Cup Final and spoke to around 500 fans who bought tickets at inflated prices in a bid to gain evidence as to where those tickets came from.

By tracing back it's hoped to pinpoint exactly who the tickets originally belonged to and, if found guilty of black marketing, curtail or limit the number they receive in future.

Anything that puts more FA Cup Final tickets in the hands of REAL fans can only be a good thing.

WITHE IN THE WARS

OLD warhorse Peter Withe may have fought his last battle. The much-travelled 36-year-old, having just returned after suffering thrombosis in a leg, may now be forced to quit the game after breaking his cheekbone in Sheffield United's play-off defeat at Bristol City.

Watch out!

SOME of the top strikers taking part in this summer's European Championship Finals could have a bit of bother getting through customs on the way home.

Seiko, official timekeepers to the Championship, will award a watch to the player who scores the first goal in every match.

And that means someone like Rued Gullit could finish up with five up his sleeve!

CUEING UP TO LOSE!

SNOOKER ace Steve Davis didn't do much to help Portsmouth's players forget their relegation blues when he sent six 'Pompey' stars packing in a special challenge match in aid of goalkeeper Alan Knight's testimonial.

Despite giving each opponent a 21-point start, only Kevin Dillon came close to victory - finally bowing out 87 points to 94 in a black ball game.

Rest of the scores were: Andy Gosney (lost 83-97); Kevin Ball (lost 58-75); Clive Whitehead (lost 35-101); Billy Gilbert (lost 30-69); Mick Quinn (lost 26-127) and boss Alan Ball (lost 53-78).

The real winner, however, was Alan Knight who collected £5,000 on the night.

COVENTRY striker David Speedie will be among the enthusiastic amateurs taking part in the star-studded Dunhill British Masters Pro-Am at Woburn Golf and Country Club on Tuesday.



BALL ON THE BOX

ROCK on, Ballie! No, that isn't a misprint but a phrase that's bound to crop up in a new television series 'The Channon and Ball Video Show'.

The former England duo have teamed up for a series of programmes that will take a nostalgic look at the game as they remember it, with plenty of material from the archives to help jog their memories.

Unfortunately the show will only be screened on TVS and the rather unreasonable hour of 12.05am but, if you can stay awake long enough, the effort should be worthwhile.

FINALLY, A CHANGE OF TUNE

SOME pretty horrible things were written about Wimbledon on the morning of the Cup Final, not least the suggestion that because of the way they play it would be a "tragedy for football if they won."

Yet those same people who knocked Bobby Gould's men on the eve of what was surely going to be a magnificent victory for Liverpool - for the good of football - suddenly changed their tune when they were made to eat their words.

No longer was it a tragedy but instead a deserved win. Funny old game...

GAZZA SPLASHES OUT

PAUL GASCOIGNE put his foot in it when he kicked over a bucket of water after being sent off in a match against Derby. It cost him a £200 fine from the Football Association who judged 'Gazza' brought the game into disrepute with his actions.

He can think himself lucky not to have been banned for life for such a terrible crime!

MATCH Chat!

The column that takes you inside soccer.

FLYING DOCTOR VISITS

PAUL WEBB, a 27-year-old cancer research doctor, paid £350 to fly 6,000 miles from his home in San Francisco to cheer Lincoln City on in their bid to regain their League status.

Said Paul after watching the victory which clinched the Vauxhall Conference title: "I had to shop around for a cheap flight because I couldn't really afford it but now I know it's all been worthwhile!"

BOSS eyed

KENNY DALGLISH being named Bell's 'Manager of the Year' was hardly a surprise but was he the worthy winner? Was it a greater feat for Liverpool with all their stars, money and support to win the League or Wimbledon with their 'six-a-penny' players, shoestring budget and average gates of around 7,000 to win the FA Cup?

QUOTE OF

ALAN CORK - on being told he would have to pay £8 for two drinks at Wimbledon's hotel before the Final - said: "Eight quid for two drinks? I'd need a testimonial to buy a round!"

THE WEEK

TWO-GOAL RETURN OF THE EXILE

IAN RUSH gave Anfield a glimpse of what they've been missing when he scored in Alan Hansen's testimonial match against an England XI.

But any chances of the man coming home were dashed by 'Rushy' himself, who stressed there is still two years of his Juventus contract to run and there is no escape clause.

Any chance of him leaving Italy was made even less likely when his 'foreign' partner Michael Laudrup was transfer-listed.

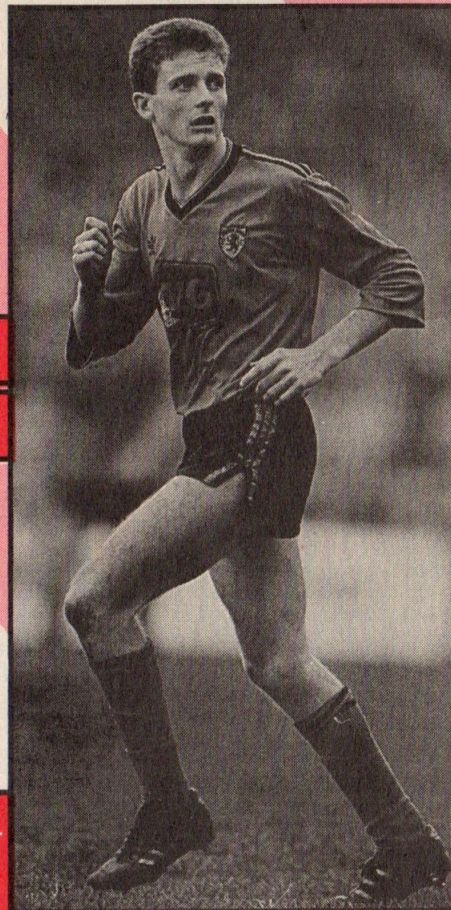


McKNIGHT MAY MOVE

CELTIC'S Scottish Cup Final triumph may have been goalkeeper Allen McKnight's last appearance for the Parkhead club. Called in as an eleventh hour replacement for the injured Pat Bonner, McKnight gave a flawless performance at Hampden but he feels his international prospects with Northern Ireland will suffer if he returns to the backwaters of reserve team football. "I understand Allen's position," admits boss Billy McNeill. "He wants regular first team football but, with someone like Pat Bonner as his rival for the number one jersey, he knows I can offer no guarantees. We have, however, made him an offer to stay so he has gone away to think about things and will reach a decision on his future in the next week or so."

■ PAUL McSTAY completed his own personal double to add to Celtic's League and Cup glory when he was voted 'Player of the Year' by the Scottish PFA, two weeks after picking up the 'Football Writers' award.

■ MOTHERWELL and Huddersfield are both showing interest in Eire international Pierce O'Leary who has been released by Celtic.



ANDY EASES

KEVIN'S AGONY

"And when I was named in the starting line-up for the match against Colombia, it gave me a tremendous boost and regenerated all my enthusiasm for the game."

"International football is the aim of every self-respecting professional and in the short time I have been part of the national squad I have learned from the experience."

"I am also perfectly aware of how quickly things can change in football. Just when I thought nothing was going right, things started to turn for me and now, instead of spending the Summer mulling over our Cup Final defeat, I have put the disappointment behind me and I'm looking forward to the new season."

Kevin Gallacher - Scottish call-up lifted his Hampden blues.

NO HOT SEAT FOR MILLER

ABERDEEN are set to make the sort of offer which will keep Willie Miller at Pittodrie for the rest of his playing days but the 33-year-old defender is unlikely to be offered the vacant manager's chair.

Falling hard on the heels of the shock resignation of Ian Porterfield, Miller's name topped many lists of likely successors but, having declared himself good for another three years as a player and seeing the problems encountered by Graeme Souness who has tried to combine both jobs, he is almost certain to settle for continuing as skipper.

The Aberdeen board have advertised the vacancy and among those being mentioned are Rangers assistant boss Walter Smith, ex-Ibrox boss Jock Wallace and Motherwell's Tommy McLean.

But hot favourite for the job must be former St. Mirren boss Alex Smith, who only recently joined the Pittodrie coaching staff.

Smith is very highly regarded

throughout football and his brief exit from the soccer scene was always seen as nothing more than a temporary setback.

Meanwhile Ian Porterfield has hit out at suggestions that he is leaving Aberdeen with his tail between his legs.

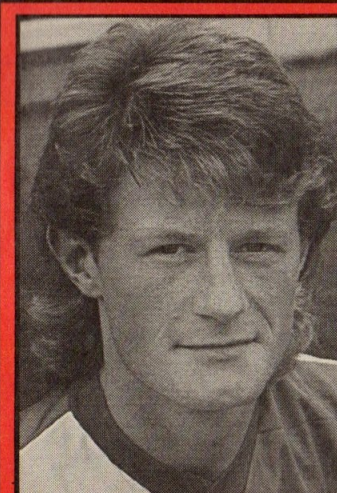
"I'm no quitter," he snaps. "The fans never accepted me in the same way as they did Alex Ferguson but I could live with that."

"However, when my children began to be drawn into the matter, it was time for me to make a stand. My kids were getting a lot of trouble at work and school so, after much thought, I decided to call it a day."

"I believe I did an honest job for the club. After all the success which 'Fergie' had enjoyed, there was always going to be a levelling-off period while everyone adjusted to the change."

"I feel we were well on our way to sorting things out and were on the verge of making one or two signings which could have turned the club around."

BLACKBURN BLUES



Colin Hendry - devastated.

DEVASTATED Blackburn defender Colin Hendry faces Second Division football again next season declaring: "I'm heart-broken!"

The 22-year-old defender has been ever-present in a season which saw the Ewood Park outfit chalk up a 23-match unbeaten run and come close to ending their 22-year absence from the top flight.

But a 6-1 aggregate defeat at the hands of Chelsea in the Division One/Two play-offs turned a season of hope into one of despair.

Says Colin: "We have done

so well this season by recording an impressive unbeaten run and also topping the Second Division table but the defeat at the hands of Chelsea overshadows all that."

"Although we slowed up a bit towards the end of the season, I really thought that we would be promoted."

"It's awful when you set your heart on something and then it doesn't come off but, after losing the first leg 2-0 to Chelsea, we were under a lot of pressure and couldn't really respond."

"We got hammered in the second leg at Stamford Bridge and it's all a bitter pill

to swallow."

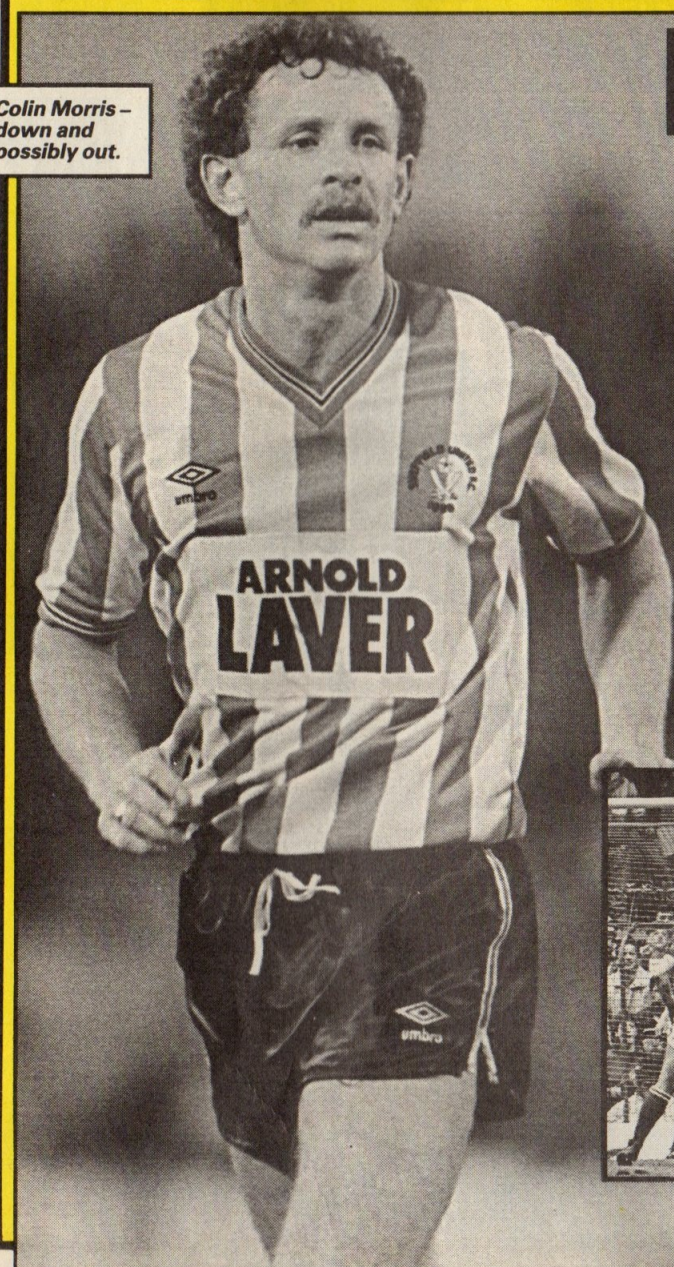
Colin has been the subject of much transfer speculation this season with rumours that a big First Division club would come in for him. And if those rumours turn out to be true, Colin will get his chance of top flight football.

"I have got two years of my contract left at Blackburn but I am desperate for First Division football and if a big club came in for me then I would hope that Blackburn wouldn't stand in my way," he says.

"Whatever happens, you can be sure that this club will go all out next season to get into the top flight."

SUDDEN DEATH

Colin Morris - down and possibly out.



MATCH brings you the inside stories from two of the early play-off games as Blackburn just miss out on promotion ... and Sheffield United go down!

BLEAK FUTURE FOR MORRIS

THE future of Colin Morris hangs in the balance as Sheffield United face up to life in the Third Division.

The 35-year-old winger scored in United's 1-1 draw with Bristol City at Bramall Lane but it still wasn't enough to save Dave Bassett's side from relegation as they went down 2-1 on aggregate in a Division Two/Three play-off.

And as Colin explains, the drop means that his future at the club looks bleak.

"I would love to stay but somehow I don't think I will be here next season," Colin reveals.

"Everything will be sorted out in the next few days but I've got a feeling that I will not be part of future plans of the club."

And with his future apparently laying elsewhere, Colin has a warning for the 'Blades' side left to battle out of Division Three next season.

"The Third Division is a very hard place to play football and I'm sure the lads will find it difficult," he says.

"I should know because I was involved with the United side that did that four seasons ago and we only got out then because of a slightly better goal difference."

The drop also sees the misery of Dave Bassett completed. The man who brought Wimbledon from the Fourth Division to the top flight now stares at the Third Division again.



Action from Ayresome Park where Bradford lost 2-0 on the night and 3-2 on aggregate to Middlesbrough.

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NEXT WEEK

TWO FREE GIFTS
... with one issue!

GIFT No. 1

GIANT EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP
FINALS WALLCHART!

GIFT No. 2

12 SUPER EURO STICKERS! And there are more stickers with the June 11 and 18 issues. Fix your stickers to the wallchart and fill in the details of every game played to complete a unique souvenir.



GOALS, GOALS, GOALS!

Who scored them and how many.

SCOTTISH REVIEW OF THE SEASON

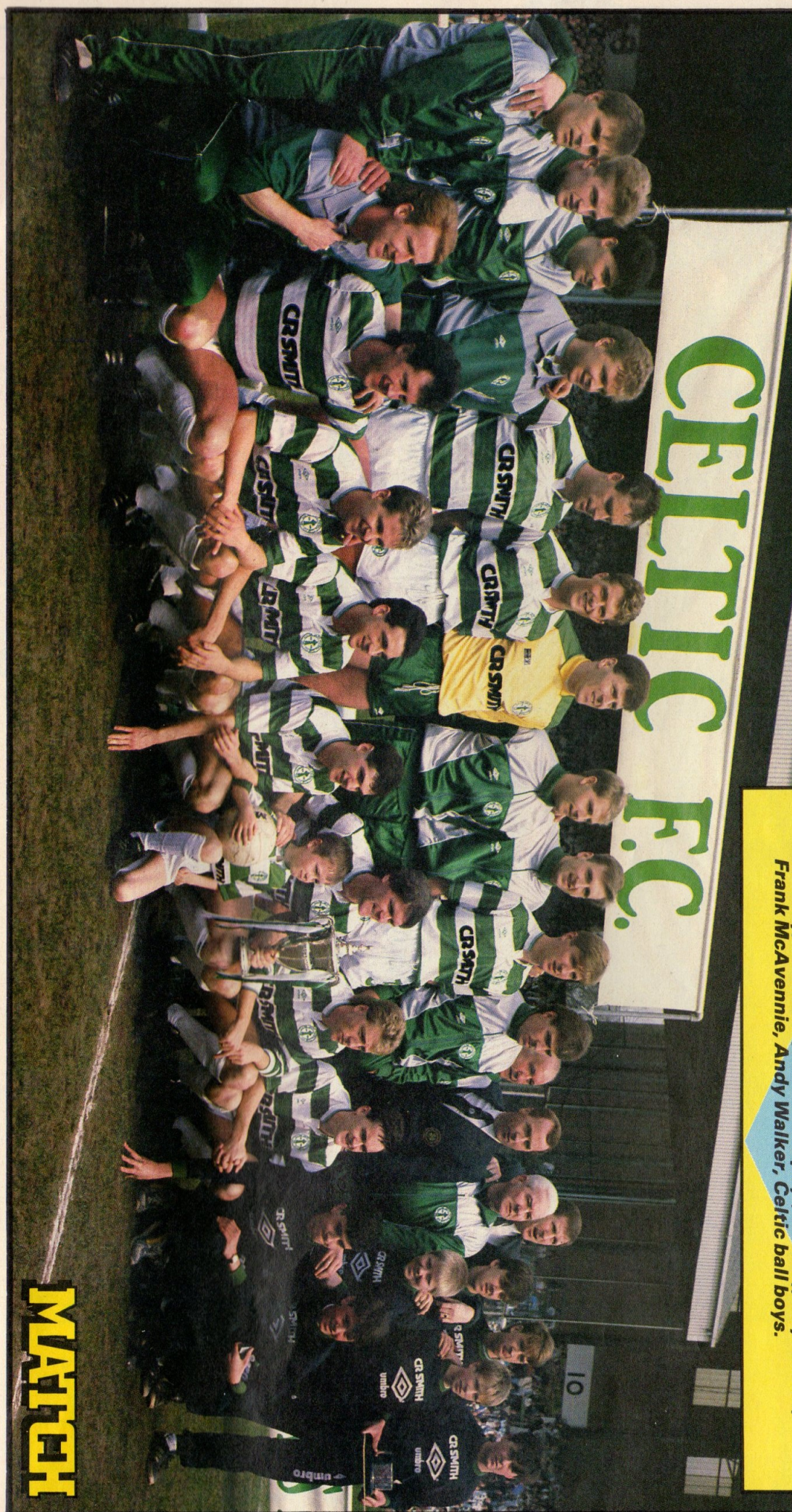
FANS' CHOICE

Focus on the 'Players of the Year' in Division Three.

TOP STOPPERS

Meet the man with the safest hands in Division Three.

CENTENARY SUPERSTARS



CELTIC celebrated their Centenary season in real style by winning both the Scottish Premier Division Championship and the Scottish Cup and our picture shows skipper Roy Aitken holding the title trophy together with mascot Stuart Murphy and the rest of the victorious squad.

BACK ROW (left to right): Brian Scott (physio), Tony Shepherd, Owen Archdeacon, Peter Grant, Mick McCarthy, Derek Whyte, Pat Bonner, Allen McKnight, Lex Baillie, Anton Rogan, Mark McGhee, Jimmy Steele (masseur), Tommy Craig (assistant manager), Neil Mochan (trainer), Billy McNeill (manager), Celtic ball boys.

FRONT ROW: Tommy Burns, Billy Stark, Chris Morris, Paul McStay, Joe Miller, Stuart Murphy (mascot), Roy Aitken, Frank McAvennie, Andy Walker, Celtic ball boys.

MATCH



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WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE ARTICLE OF CLOTHING AND WHY? My Tom and Jerry boxer shorts – they're so comfortable to wear.

WHO IS YOUR MOST FAMOUS FRIEND OUTSIDE FOOTBALL? I'm afraid they all seem to be in football.

WHAT SUBJECT DID YOU HATE MOST AT SCHOOL AND WHY? Physics – I couldn't grasp the subject ... or the teacher!

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU COULD BE INVISIBLE FOR A DAY? Sneak out to Concorde and fly to Disneyland.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF SOMEONE GAVE YOU £50,000 TODAY? Pay off our next telephone bill and with the change buy our full-back Greg Abbott some new clothes.

WHAT IS YOUR CLAIM TO FAME OUTSIDE FOOTBALL? I was actually present when our Scottish striker John Hendrie bought a round of drinks.

HOW MANY 'O' LEVELS DID YOU GET? English Language and Modern Geography.

WHO WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET AND WHY? I've already met her – she was born five months ago.

WHAT, IF ANYTHING, FRIGHTENS YOU? Non-male car owners!

WHAT WAS THE FIRST CAR YOU BOUGHT AND HOW MUCH DID IT COST? Vauxhall Cavalier 1300 for £1,000.

WHO ARE YOUR FAVOURITE POP STARS? Rod Stewart and Paul Young.

WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY? A First Division fixture list with Bradford's name on it.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE POSSESSION AT HOME AND WHY? My Teletext television. It keeps me up to date with all the latest soccer news.

WHAT DON'T YOU LIKE ABOUT YOURSELF? I'm far too generous to my wife.

OUTSIDE FOOTBALL, WHAT IS THE BIGGEST RISK YOU HAVE TAKEN? I was the first person to taste my wife's home-made chilli.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES? Watching most sports and collecting win bonuses.

WHICH DAY OF THE WEEK DO YOU DISLIKE MOST AND WHY? Any day after we've been beaten.

IF YOU COULD BE A FLY ON THE WALL, WHERE WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO BE? At a Page Three girl's modelling session.

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN MISTAKEN FOR SOMEBODY ELSE? Not really but some of the lads at Bradford call me 'Cheggers' after Keith Chegwin.

WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE CARTOON CHARACTER? Fred Flintstone.

WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF RELAXATION? A nice meal out with my wife.

FULL NAME: Stuart Murray McCall.
BIRTHPLACE/DATE: Leeds, June 10, 1964.
HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5ft 8ins, 11st 9lbs.
MARRIED: Yes, to Liz.
CHILDREN: Carly, five months.

IF YOU WERE FORCED TO SEEK A NEW JOB TOMORROW, WHAT WOULD YOU DO? Hopefully a PE teacher, if not a clothes designer for Greg Abbott.

WHICH OTHER SPORTSMAN WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO BE AND WHY? Jimmy White. He's so exciting and enjoyable to watch.

WHICH ACTOR WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO BE AND WHY? Rex Harrison as Dr. Dolittle so I could tell our next door neighbour's dog just what I was going to do the next time it made a mess in our garden.

DO YOU HAVE ANY RECURRING DREAMS? Yes, playing Liverpool at Valley Parade in the first game of next season.

Stuart McCall

THE PRIVATE LIFE OF..

BRADFORD CITY'S

Stuart McCall

NEWPORT NIGHTMARE

FATAL FACT! Newport's points total of 25 was the lowest of any team in the League!

FATAL FACT! Newport conceded a staggering 105 goals during the season – the worst record of any League team!

FATAL FACT! Newport suffered the most defeats both at home and away of any League team – 14 and 19 respectively!

NEWPORT'S nightmare season has left them fighting for their footballing future and facing life in a part-time league where favours will be few and far between.

But for one of their playing staff, goalkeeper Paul Bradshaw, County's traumatic slide into the Vauxhall Conference has left him bitter and anxious to get away before what is left of his career slides into non-League obscurity along with the Welsh side.

When the season began, Paul moved from Bristol Rovers to Somerton Park expecting the club to push for honours but, within weeks, he found them plummeting towards the Football League trapdoor like an out of control rollercoaster.

And after three managers, three chairmen, financial chaos, a catalogue of injuries and the sale of some of their best players, Newport finally gave up the fight to hang on to League status.

For 32-year-old Paul, the season has left him on the edge of the unknown and determined to get back into League football.

"We started the season off well with a blend of experienced players and youngsters," he explains. "But then we lost our skipper Phil Brignull through a serious knee injury and our plight just got worse and worse."

John Lewis, who was manager then, did well to get some experienced players to the club and the future didn't look half as bad as it turned out.

"By the time Brian Eastick took over as boss we were near the bottom but above Tranmere and Rochdale. Then Tranmere went out and spent £60,000 on new players but, because of our financial situation, we knew we couldn't match that."

"When we started to sell our better players it was like admitting defeat and we were left to field YTS lads. You can't expect to survive by pitching youngsters into a League which is very physical and hard to play in."

Now Paul, who spent part of the season out with a serious thigh injury, is totally disillusioned about life at a club which hasn't even told him whether he is part of their plans for next season.

"I want to get away," he says emphatically. "I don't want to play in the Vauxhall Conference."

I'm fed up with the way the club has been run. I went from week to week not even knowing whether I would get any wages. It was that bad.

"I'm 32 and I still believe I can do a good job for a League club. I know I've got the ability and, even at my age, the challenge to prove myself is still there."

"I don't think there is any real chance of getting an improved contract at Newport and, in any case, I haven't even had a phone call from anyone at the club to tell me what is going on. People say we've been bought by a businessman but all I know is what I read in the papers."

'I don't want to play in the Conference'
– PAUL BRADSHAW

"Newport's drop couldn't have come at a worse time for me. I can't even tell my family what is going on or plan holidays at the moment. At this stage of my career I need security."

And Paul's fate has been made even worse by the fact that one of his former clubs – Wolves – have at the same time got out of the Fourth Division as Champions and are due to play at Wembley against Burnley in the Sherpa Van Trophy.

"I still live in Wolverhampton," says Paul. "And I see the lads most weekends. It was very demoralising to see them buzzing every week while I would have just got back from a 6-0 thrashing. But they are still mates and I wish them every success, even though it's like rubbing salt in the wounds."

Former Wolves 'keeper Paul Bradshaw – plunged into a personal crisis by Newport's nightmare of a season.

I REALLY felt for Crystal Palace on the last Saturday of the League season. They must have thought they had secured a spot in the play-offs for a place in the First Division when they beat Manchester City 2-0.

What they cannot have

expected was Blackburn winning away at Champions Millwall, thus condemning Palace to another season in Division Two.

It must have been heart-breaking for manager Steve Coppell and his team.

P. Melloy, Bletchley, Bucks.

Mick's MAILBAG

I'M A
GOLA
SPORTS
WRITER

THERE'S a terrific prize at stake for the writer of the 'Gola Sports Star Letter' - a super back pack, in blue with red arrow and lettering. As usual there will be special button badges for every letter published. Send your letters to: 'Mick's Mailbag', MATCH, Stirling House, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8DJ.



IF there was one player I didn't feel sorry for following Arsenal's Littlewoods Cup Final defeat at the hands of Luton it was Nigel Winterburn.

The moment I saw him lining up to take the penalty - which, had he scored from would have put the game beyond Luton's reach - memories of how he barracked Manchester United's Brian McClair for his penalty miss at Highbury immediately sprang to mind.

I was praying for justice to be done and Luton keeper Andy Dibble must have heard me.

So to all you unscrupulous footballers out there, you may go unpunished for the time being but sometime, somehow, someone up there will do unto you what you did unto others... and the impact will be twice as hard.

Vinny Jones beware!
Kenny Kim, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

IF Liverpool hope to win the European Cup then they must break up one of the most thrilling club sides to be produced by this country.

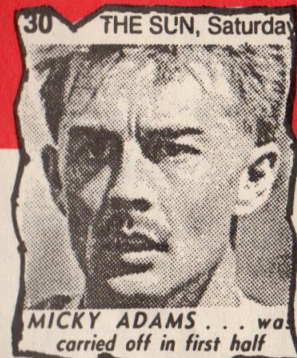
That's the situation that faces Anfield boss Kenny Dalglish following UEFA's decision to impose a 'four foreigners only' rule on British clubs from 1990.

With so many Scots in his side, Dalglish must now scour the country for Englishmen of equal talent if he hopes to win the greatest club prize of them all, the European Cup.

But why should he have to break up the team of the century? Tom Clayton, Great Yarmouth. **● HE may not need to. But he will have to sign more Englishmen just for European combat should UEFA allow Liverpool back into Europe.**

EMLYN HUGHES
ANSWERS YOUR LETTERS
- SEE PAGE 18.

GOLDEN GOOF



MICKY ADAMS... was carried off in first half

MICKY Adams may have been carried off in the match against Birmingham, but why did 'The Sun' use a picture of Leeds team-mate Glyn Snodin?

P. Biddle, Uttoxeter, Staffs.

GOLA
SPORTS
STAR
LETTER

THE FURY THAT THREATENS IBROX

RANGERS boss Graeme Souness must learn to control his temper otherwise he may undo all the good work he's done at Ibrox.

The Rangers player-manager has shown how hot-headed he can be on the field with a catalogue of sendings-off and bookings.

And his fiery temperament has spread to the dressing room. Iain Durrant almost left the club after a bust-up with Souness. Now a flare-up with Graham Roberts looks like ending with Roberts packing his bags and returning to England.

The great pity is that Roberts was Rangers' most consistent player last season and is clearly loved by the fans.

And unless Souness learns to be more level-headed, then he could destroy a team capable of dominating Scottish soccer for years to come.

Neil Rudd, Belfast, Northern Ireland.

● TEA-HURLING scenes in the Rangers dressing room are legendary. And senior professionals won't stand for being treated like that.

appearance for England. Tony Adams and Gary Pallister have made the step up, so why hasn't Paul been given his chance?

England's performances - especially in midfield - against Hungary and Israel have not been up to scratch and 'Gazza' is the man to get England firing again. With a midfield of Steve McMahon, Bryan Robson, Paul Gascoigne and Trevor Steven, can you see anyone beating England?

Dave Menzies, Southport, Merseyside.

● 'GAZZA' may get his chance in the friendly international with Switzerland.

CAN Charlie Nicholas have been serious when he described Premier Division Champions Celtic as "very vulnerable in defence" in a recent issue of MATCH?

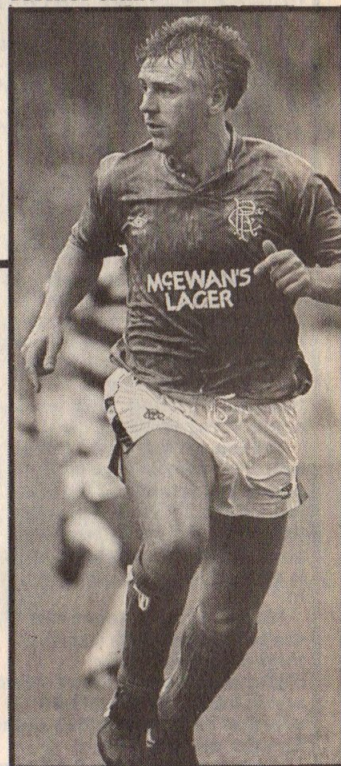
These comments, while true of Celtic teams of the past, are patently untrue of the current team. Only 23 goals have been scored against the Parkhead outfit this season and that's the best record in the Premier Division.

Even Charlie's Aberdeen team have failed to score against Celtic in the past three meetings so where Charlie gets the idea from that the Glasgow giants "leave themselves open at the back" I don't know.

Charlie claims to love Celtic but I'm not so sure. I suspect he knows he was wrong to quit the team for Arsenal in the first place and now knows that he wouldn't be considered for a place in the present team.

H. A. McNeill, Isle of Colonsay, Argyll.

● CHARLIE'S admiration for Celtic's achievements this season was clear. And I didn't detect a trace of bitterness towards his former club.



Graham Roberts - Rangers' most consistent player this season but now set to leave after a bust-up with the boss.

● THE first column after each player's name indicates the number of games played; the second column the number of goals conceded; the third column the average number of minutes between each goal (worked out to two decimal places and then rounded off) and the fourth the number of clean sheets. Only League games count and players must have played in at least 25 to qualify. Where averages are the same, positions in the table are decided first by the number of games played and then by the number of clean sheets.

DIVISION FOUR

Goalkeeper	Games played	Goals conceded	Average mins. per goal	Clean sheets
1 Kenny Allen (Torquay)	46	41	101	18
*2 Joe Neenan (Peterborough)	46	42	99	22
2 David Felgate (Bolton)	46	42	99	21
4 Mark Kendall (Wolves)	46	43	97	22
5 Ron Green (Scunthorpe)	35	38	83	11
6 Dean Greygoose (Crewe)	43	48	81	11
*7 Keith Branagan (Cambridge)	35	40	79	15
8 Kevin Carr (Hartlepool)	31	37	75	10
9 Chris Marples (Stockport)	44	55	72	9
10 Kevin Rose (Hereford)	46	59	70	14
11 Paddy Roche (Halifax)	46	59	70	10
12 Mike Hughes (Swansea - now retired)	32	41	70	7
13 Chris Pearce (Burnley)	46	62	67	15
14 Peter Wells (Leyton Orient)	46	63	66	9
15 Mike Salmon (Wrexham)	40	55	65	9
**16 Mark Prudhoe (Carlisle)	35	50	63	8
17 Keith Welch (Rochdale)	46	76	54	9

* Includes 6 games/3 goals at Scarborough.

● Now Millwall.

** Includes 13 games/18 goals at Hartlepool.

MATCH reveals the goalkeeper with the safest pair of hands in Division Four during the 1987-88 season.

KING KENNY!

Kenny Allen - safest hands in Division Four.

ALLEN WINS HIS

BATTLE OF NERVES

TORQUAY goalkeeper Kenny Allen has played a major part in the Devon club's astonishing turnaround of fortunes in the last 12 months.

Just one year ago, the 36-year-old was living on frayed nerves as his team scrambled to safety in the dying seconds of the season and earned a 2-2 draw that kept them in the Football League.

He has been living on his nerves for most of this season as well, but this time at the opposite end of the table as the 'Gulls' chased a top three spot that would have ensured them automatic promotion out of the Fourth Division.

That was not to be, however, as Cyril Knowles' outfit were denied on the last Saturday of the season and had to be content with a play-off spot instead.

To have managed even that, however, was due in no small measure to the efforts of Kenny, who emerged as Division Four's 'Top Stopper' by conceding a miserly 41 goals as he clocked in for duty in all 46 of the club's League games during the season.

Mark Kendall - joint record for the most clean sheets.

But the vastly experienced number one, who has also seen League action at Hartlepool, Bournemouth and Swindon, was chased all the way by a trio of goalkeepers who all ended the season chasing top six places with their respective sides.

Second spot was shared by Bolton's Welsh international David Felgate and Peterborough's Joe Neenan, who both played 46 games and conceded just one more goal than their South Coast rival, although Joe did have six games on loan at Scarborough.

But what makes the 'Posh' goalkeeper's feat astonishing is the fact that last season, when he was with Burnley, he finished in 17th - and last place - after conceding 68 goals in 45 matches.

A marked improvement this time around also saw him return 22 clean-sheets, a figure only equalled by Wolves' fourth placed 'keeper Mark Kendall, whose experience played a vital part in their march to the title.

Then there was a big gap in our table, with Scunthorpe's Ron Green claiming fifth place - one place worse than his team managed in the League, and a commendable sixth for Crewe's Dean Greygoose.



RACING FOR

PARIS ARE SET TO SWOOP

RACING PARIS look set to pull off a major coup by signing Belgian World Cup 'keeper Jean-Marie Pfaff, who is destined to move on after six years with Bayern Munich.

The long-serving 'keeper - a veteran of more than 160 games for Bayern - is also interesting Monaco, who could be tempted to let unsettled English striker Mark Hateley return to Britain.

Monaco coach Arsene Wenger wants to strengthen his defence and

has already declared his admiration for the talents of the Belgian 'keeper.

Hateley is reported to have had talks with Spurs and Glasgow Rangers but has so far denied any move is on the cards.

And Mechelen - winners of the European Cup Winners' Cup - have completed the signing of Ajax striker John Bosman.

Bosman agreed to the deal with the Belgians after Mechelen ran out 1-0 winners over Ajax in the Final in Strasbourg.

MONACO had Glenn Hoddle to thank for carving out the opening for the goal which beat Nice 1-0 and virtually guaranteed the South Coast side the French title.

The England midfielder wriggled clear of his marker to set up the chance and was later unlucky not to score himself when he was brought down after rounding the goalkeeper. No penalty was awarded.

With second-placed Bordeaux beating Racing Paris 1-0, it left Monaco needing just one point from three games to make sure of the Championship.

SPOT-ON, LINEKER!

BARCELONA'S bid to end their poor season on a high note was boosted with a 4-2 win over Real Zaragoza... with incoming coach Johan Cruyff watching from the stands.

England striker Gary Lineker scored twice from the penalty spot to add to goals from Ramon Caldera and Rubensosa.

Meanwhile Spanish Champions Real Madrid and runners-up Real Sociedad drew 2-2.

Spanish international Emilio Butragueno scored twice for Madrid after Paco Loren had put the home team in front after 16 minutes.

Real Sociedad's substitute Jose Iturrino grabbed a late equaliser for John Toshack's team in a match spoiled as a spectacle for the 20,000 fans when Madrid's Spanish international midfielder Michel was struck on the head by an object thrown from the crowd.



BRUGES clinched the Belgian title with a 3-0 win over Winterslag but it was European Cup Winners' Cup heroes Mechelen who hit the headlines with a crushing 3-0 victory over Anderlecht.

Goals from De Gryse, Gasperic and Brylle helped Bruges take the title while Mechelen capped a glorious week with a stunning win - their goals coming from Emmers, Koeman and Ohana to complete the greatest week in the club's history.

MATCH brings you a round-up of the stars voted 'Player of the Year' by the supporters in Division Four.

THE FANS' CHOICE

KEVIN CROWNED

Kevin Russell - celebrated his first full season by becoming Wrexham's leading scorer and the club's 'Player of the Year'.



DIVISION FOUR

Club	Player	Full appearances (all comps)	Goals (all comps)
Bolton	David Felgate	41	0
Burnley	Steve Davis	39	5
Cambridge	Alan Kimble	46	1
Cardiff	Nicky Platt	46	1
Carlisle	Malcolm Puskett	45	15
Colchester	Colin Hill	30	1
Crowe	Dean Greygoose	46	0
Derlington	Mark Hine	55	4
Exeter	Paul Batty	32	6
Halifax	Phil Brown	54	5
Hartlepool	Paul Haigh	49	0
Hereford	Phil Stant	46	12
Leyton Orient	Steve Castle	42	10
Newport	Simon Hodson	42	1
Peterborough	Mick Gooding	55	25
Rochdale	Geoff Lomax	50	0
Scarborough	Alan Kamara	35	0
Scunthorpe	David Harle	52	7
Swansea	Chris Marples	52	0
Tarquay	Jim McNicol	58	0
Tranmere	Ian Muir	47	8
Wolves	Steve Bull	57	52
Wrexham	Kevin Russell	46	25

WREXHAM may have missed out on promotion this season but for striker Kevin Russell it's still been a memorable year.

The 21-year-old former Portsmouth reserve completed his first full season in the Football League by finishing as Wrexham's highest goalscorer - and capped that by being voted the supporters' 'Player of the Season'.

"It has certainly been an exciting year for me," Kevin declares. "I never thought my first season would go so well but I'm delighted with the way it's turned out."

Although he missed seven matches in succession through a knee injury, Kevin still managed to hit 25 goals this season.

And with the emergence of a dynamic partnership with Ollie Kearns, the Wrexham fans will no doubt look to the two to provide the goals for a promotion push next

season. "Ollie and myself formed a brilliant partnership almost straight away," Kevin recalls. "In the first four matches we played together I managed to score five goals. Ollie then struck two in a game at Hereford. We haven't looked back since."

One thing Kevin found difficult in the Fourth Division was the higher than expected standard of play.

"Despite what people might say, the Fourth Division is a really hard division to play in," he says. "I played a few matches for Portsmouth in the Second Division and I just couldn't believe how fast the action was in Division Four. It all seemed to be at 100mph."

NEXT WEEK: Don't miss the fans' choice in Division Three.



Jean-Marie Pfaff - transfer coup.

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monaco	35	19	11	5	48	23	49
Bordeaux	35	17	10	8	42	25	44
Montpellier	35	15	9	11	37	35	39
Marseille	35	17	5	13	46	37	39
Racing Paris	35	12	15	8	34	36	39
St Etienne	35	16	6	13	48	51	38
Auxerre	35	11	15	9	33	23	37
Toulon	35	12	12	11	34	24	36
Nantes	35	12	12	11	42	35	36
Metz	35	15	6	14	39	35	36
Lille	35	13	8	14	36	34	34
Cannes	35	12	10	13	37	47	34
Nice	35	15	3	17	39	33	33
Toulouse	35	12	7	15	31	40	33
Laval	35	12	8	15	37	36	32
Niort	35	10	9	16	30	38	29
Lens	35	11	7	17	34	57	29
Paris S.G.	35	9	10	16	29	43	28
Brest	35	10	8	17	30	51	28
Le Havre	35	8	11	16	33	50	27

LEADING SCORERS: 18 Papin (Marseille); 15 - Garande (St Etienne); 13 - Allofs (Marseille), Hateley (Monaco); 12 - Milla (Montpellier), Johnston (Nantes). LATEST RESULTS: Bordeaux 1, Racing Paris 0; Toulouse 1, Marseille 0; Montpellier 4, Lens 0; Toulon 1, St Etienne 1; Paris St Germain 1, Auxerre 1; Cannes 1, Nantes 4; Niort 1, Metz 3; Le Havre 2, Laval 1; Lille 2, Brest 0; Monaco 1, Nice 0.

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bruges	33	23	5	5	74	33	51
Antwerp	33	20	9	4	73	37	49
Mechelen	33	21	6	6	49	23	48
Anderlecht	33	17	9	7	63	27	43
FC Liege	33	13	16	4	48	27	42
Waregem	33	15	7	11	49	43	37
C. Bruges	33	12	8	13	48	45	32
Charleroi	33	11	9	13	38	47	31
Courtrai	33	11	8	14	40	54	30
St Trond	33	10	9	14	29	37	29
Stand. Liege	33	10	8	15	43	49	28
Beerschot	33	10	7	16	38	45	27
Lokeren	33	9	8	16	42	45	26
Beveren	33	8	10	15	35	36	26
Molenbeek	33	7	12	14	31	47	26
Winterslag	33	9	6	18	30	74	24
Ghent	33	8	8	17	33	53	24
Racing Jet	33	7	7	19	21	55	21

LEADING GOALSCORERS: 24 - Soveryns (Antwerp); 22 - De Gryse (Club Brugge); 18 - Niederbacher (Waregem), Malbasa (Liege); 17 - Brylle (Club Brugge). LATEST RESULTS: Antwerp 3, St Trond 1; Courtrai 1, Standard Liege 0; Beerschot 2, Molenbeek 1; FC Liege 1, Waregem 1; FC Bruges 3, Winterslag 0; Lokeren 8, Ghent 1; Charleroi 3, Beveren 1; Mechelen 3, Anderlecht 0; Racing Jet 1, Cercle Brugge 1.

ITALY (Final table)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AC Milan	30	17	11	2	43	14	45
Napoli	30	18	6	6	55	27	42
Roma	30	15	8	7	39	26	38
Sampdoria	30	13	11	6	41	30	37
Inter Milan	30	11	10	9	42	35	32
Juventus	30	11	9	10	35	30	31
Torino	30	8	15	7	33	30	31
Fiorentina	30	9	10	11	29	33	28
Cesena	30	7	12	11	23	32	26
Verona	30	7	11	12	23	30	25
Como	30	6	13	11	22	37	25
Ascoli	30	6	12	12	30	37	24
Pisa	30	6	8	16	27	44	24
Pescara	30	5	13	12	19	39	23
Avellino	30	5	13	12	19	39	23
Empoli	30	6	13	11	20	30	20

*Five points deducted for part in match-fixing scandal. LATEST GOALSCORERS: 15 - Maradona (Napoli); 13 - Careca (Napoli); 11 - Virdis (AC Milan), Giannini (Roma); 10 - Vialli (Sampdoria). LATEST RESULTS: Ascoli 0, Cesena 0; Como 1, AC Milan 1; Empoli 3, Pescara 2; Inter Milan 1, Avellino 1; Juventus 1, Fiorentina 2; Napoli 1, Sampdoria 2; Pisa 2, Torino 0; Roma 1, Verona 0.

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
R. Madrid	37	27	6	4	93	25	60
R. Sociedad	37	22	6	9	60	32	50
Atl. Madrid	37	19	9	9	57	35	47
Ath. Bilbao	37	16	12	9	48	43	44
Osasuna	37	15	9	13	39	33	39
R. Vail.	37	13	12	12	30	32	38
Barcelona	37	15	8	14	48	43	38
Celta	37	13	11	13	40	40	37
Seville	37	13	11	13	41	43	37
Sporting	37	14	9	14	43	48	37
R. Zaragoza	37	10	14	13	52	55	34
Cadiz	37	11	12	14	44	51	34
Valencia	37	10	12	15	43	52	32
Espanol	37	11	10	16	44	55	32
Logrones	37	12	8	17	28	45	32
Murcia	37	9	13	15	30	40	31
Real Betis	37	13	5	19	40	53	31
Sabadell	37	9	11	17	27	46	29
R. Mallorca	37	9	11	17	34	49	29
Las Palmas	37	12	5	20	42	63	29

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Werd. Brem.	33	21	8	4	57	21	50
Bay. Munich	33	21	4	8	79	42	46
Cologne	33	17	12	4	54	28	46
Stuttgart	33	16	7	10	68	48	39
Nuremberg	33	13	11	9	44	37	37
Hamburg	33	12	11	10	59	65	35
Bor. Moen.	33	14	5	14	53	48	33
Bayer Lev.	33	10	12	11	50	56	32
Hanover	33	12	7	14	59	57	31
Eint. Frank.	33	10	10	13	50	49	30
Bor. Dort.	33	9	11	13	48	50	29
Bayer Uerd.	33	10	9	14	54	60	29
Buchum	33	9	10	14	44	51	28
Karlsruhe	33	9	10	14	36	54	28
Kaisersl'tn	33	10	7	16	48	60	27
Wald. Mann.	33	7	13	13	34	49	27
FC Hamburg	33	7	10	16	36	55	24
Schalke	33	8	7	18	47	80	23

LATEST RESULTS: FC Cologne 3, Schalke 1; Borussia Dortmund 2, Bayer Leverkusen 2; Bayern Munich 2, Stuttgart 1; Waldhof Mannheim 2, Bayer Uerdingen 2; Homburg 1, Bochum 1; Nuremberg 3, Kaiserslautern 2; Borussia Moenchengladbach 2, Karlsruhe 2; Eintracht Frankfurt 3, Hanover 3; Werder Bremen 1, Hamburg 4.

LEADING SCORERS: 18 Papin (Marseille); 15 - Garande (St Etienne); 13 - Allofs (Marseille), Hateley (Monaco); 12 - Milla (Montpellier), Johnston (Nantes). LATEST RESULTS: Bordeaux 1, Racing Paris 0; Toulouse 1, Marseille 0; Montpellier 4, Lens 0; Toulon 1, St Etienne 1; Paris St Germain 1, Auxerre 1; Cannes 1, Nantes 4; Niort 1, Metz 3; Le Havre 2, Laval 1; Lille 2, Brest 0; Monaco 1, Nice 0.

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Mark Hateley - missing the big crowds.

THE

MARK

HATELEY

INTERVIEW

MARK HATELEY dropped a soccer bombshell when he announced he was quitting the sun and swank of fashionable Monaco and here, in an exclusive interview with ADRIAN CURTIS, he talks frankly about his French experience... and his England future.

MATCH: When did you actually realise that it was time to quit French football?
MARK: I think the crunch came just after Christmas when we were playing in front of just three to five thousand spectators at home even though we were top of the table. In the summer we were attracting gates of up to 20,000 but, when you reach October and November, everybody goes home and we were left playing in front of very moderate crowds to say the least. It was a great contrast after being used to 75,000 people every week in Italy and I really miss that.

MATCH: Was it affecting your game?

MARK: I think it would be unfair to say that playing in front of small crowds was affecting me but something was missing. I like to play in front of people who have enthusiasm for the game and the residents of Monaco are very different to anywhere else really. They are very wealthy people and sport is perhaps not highest on their list of interests.

'I put my family before anything and that includes the European Cup and money. I would rather be happy and broke.'

MATCH: Your name has already been linked with Glasgow Rangers and Spurs. Are you prepared to say if you would come back to a British club at this stage?

MARK: I think that would be very unfair to the clubs who are talking to me at the moment. All I can say is that I've had talks with a number of top British clubs. First of all I am trying to sort out the situation with Monaco and then get the European Championship won with England. After that I'm going to take two weeks off and sort out my future. I've already had two Italian clubs interested in signing me but I'm keeping my options open.

MONACO LOSES ITS MAGIC

THE Monaco magic finally ran out for Mark Hateley as low crowds and his unsettled family fuelled his desire to quit the French playboy paradise.

In an exclusive interview with **MATCH**, the 26-year-old tough-guy striker reveals the truth behind his shock decision to quit the French Champions and turn his back on a financial fortune and the chance of European Cup glory.

And with the European Championship Finals less than a fortnight away, the former AC Milan player also reveals how he is still haunted by his failure to make a mark in the 1986 World Cup Finals in Mexico.

Says Mark: "Apart from my family being unsettled, I miss playing in front of big crowds and that was a big factor in my decision to leave Monaco at the end of the season.

"I'm used to playing in a big-match atmosphere and at Monaco I found I was playing in front of gates of just 5,000 when we played at home.

"Anyway, I put my family before

anything and that includes the European Cup and money. I would rather be happy and broke."

And the player whose decision to leave the rich lifestyle behind has already sparked off a massive hunt for his signature among Britain's top clubs admits he is still haunted by his World Cup disappointment.

Says Mark: "I thought I was unlucky to be left out of the World Cup side and was very disappointed. I had scored four goals in five games leading up to the Finals and got most of the goals which took us there.

"I didn't score in the first two games in the Finals but then nobody did and I felt a bit hard done by.

"Now I'm as keen as possible to get back for the European Championship but I know that it is a knock-out competition and people have to play well in every game or else others will get a chance to show what they can do.

"Now I think there is room for me to start a game and hopefully I'll get a bash in Germany."



Clive Allen - suited to the French style.

MATCH: How have the club reacted to your decision to call it a day in France?

MATCH: Both the president and manager have been very understanding and respect my reasons for wanting to leave. They are trying to come to some arrangement which will suit both me and the interests of the club. They are obviously very sorry to see me go, especially after the successful season we've had because we've played some great football and done well with a new team, but they are being very helpful at the moment. I don't think they could be fairer at this stage.

'I felt a bit hard done by in the last World Cup Finals.'

MATCH: Could they make you stay?

MARK: Oh yes, quite easily. I've still got two years left on my current contract and if the club and I can't come to some sort of satisfactory arrangement and they tell me I've got to see my contract out then I'll have to stay put. The European Cup will be a big factor in their decision whether to let me go or not. I've thought long and hard about turning my back on the chance to play for Monaco in Europe and I expect it will be high in their thoughts.

MATCH: Has it surprised you how well Monaco have done this year?

MARK: I think it has surprised everyone at the club. They finished around 8th or 9th last year and then bought five new players and changed the whole team around. They were looking at a two-year rebuilding programme but we managed to wrap the Championship up in the first season.

MATCH: Do you think Clive Allen will be a success with Bordeaux?

MARK: Clive's style of play will be very suited to French football. Bordeaux are a very good club and they pushed us for the title this season. Most French clubs play with small, sharp strikers and play in a very goal-minded way. Clive has the knack of scoring and is very good in the box. I think he'll do very well as the game is very open and flows to and fro very quickly.

MATCH: Do you think playing in France has been harmful to your England career?

MARK: I don't think so. Bobby Robson knows what I can do and that is good enough for me. I've been out of the country for four years and still been a regular in the England side. Although I haven't been a first choice recently, I can hopefully get back in time for the European Championship. I'm only 26 and I would hardly describe myself as an old man.

MATCH: How well do you think England will do in Germany next month?

MARK: I think this Championship is wide open and all the teams taking part are on a similar level. Being English, though, I have to say we've got a good chance and I believe we'll be playing in the Final, although the West Germans will be favourites and I would never write off the Russians. It is all about producing the right form over a fortnight and, with the squad we've got together, I think we can do that. We are strong in all departments and that is what you need to win these competitions. We lacked that strength before the Mexico World Cup.

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SKY-HIGH SUNDERLAND!

UP, up and away the lads! Sunderland manager Denis Smith is carried shoulder-high by a delighted Gordon Armstrong as the Roker Park side celebrate Championship success and a return to Division Two at the first attempt.

